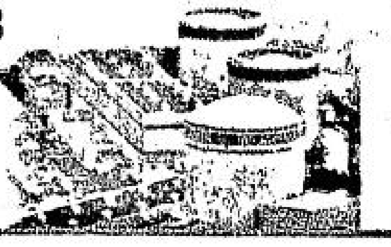
Tanong ng Bayan/A16
One-woman policy: Uubra ba sa machong Pinoy?
WIN A 21" TV! TEXT 2910

■ Across/A15
3 Chinoys kidnapped in Cavite; 1 escapes

■ World/A8
Japanese nuke plant leak kills at least 4



■ Metro/A17
New recruits boost Metro police force

■ Business/B1
Consumer price hikes loom in October

'Jesus-Mary' book doesn't impress Fil-Am bishop

By Volt Contreras

"DUH? Hello? You got it from the bookstore's fiction section and you take it for real?"

That was visiting Filipino-American Bishop Oscar Azarcon Solis addressing Catholic fans of the international bestseller, "The Da Vinci Code," whose faith may have been shaken by

JESUS-MARY/A4

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

GMA wants more studies on Bataan nuclear plant

By Juliet Labog-Javellana and Abigail L. Ho

NO, IT'S not a graceful exit. It's just that President Macapagal-Arroyo wants more studies done on the controversy-hounded Bataan nuclear power plant, the Palace says.

Stressing the country had to live with realities, the President's spokesperson Ignacio

GMA/A6

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph Tuesday, August 10, 2004 ★★ 44 pages / 3 sections / vol. 19 / no. 244 P18 website: www.inq7.net

'Txtrs, revolt! Snd no 2 txt-tax 2 JdV'

Cell phone users up in arms over gov't plan to tax text messages

By Norman Bordadora

FOR DAYS to come, Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr.'s cell phone will likely receive the biggest number of text messages in the Philippines.

A consumer group called Txt Power yesterday passed De Venecia's number to cell phone subscribers as part of a nationwide protest to denounce government plans to tax text messaging.

The group came out with the following text message and urged recipients to pass it on: "Txtrs, REVOLT! B part of history, join 2day's cyber-raly. Snd NO 2 TXT-TAX 2 d ofc of speakr JdV 0917-8101226! Join Txtpower piket @ 2pm outsyd congrs. Pls pas."

"As the world's undisputed text messaging capital, the Philippines will show that Filipinos will not just allow unjust government exactions," Txt Power spokesperson Tonyo Cruz said.

With 120 million to 150 million messages crossing mobile phone networks daily, the Philippines has been tagged as the "text capital" of the world. Text messaging is the most popular way to keep in touch in the country because it is cheaper than a phone call.

There are potentially 28 million cell phone users who could clog legislators' cell phones with messages of protest, according to Txt Power. Industry estimates said half of the 84 million Filipinos would own a handset by the end of next year.

"We expect thousands, tens of thousands and hopefully hundreds of thousands of text messages to flood the errant House and Senate members who seem to be hell-bent on keeping telecom services expensive through new levies on all cell phone services," Cruz said.

As of yesterday afternoon, the group had yet to release the names and numbers of the other members of Congress.

Taxing the windfall profits of telecommunication

TXTRS/A6

US envoy says RP no longer part of coalition

By Jerome Aning

DESPITE the ousting of the Philippines from the US-led "Coalition of the Willing" in Iraq, Manila and Washington are resolved to patch up the rift in their relationship, officials of both countries said yesterday.

Foreign Secretary Delia Albert and US Ambassador Francis Ricciardone were all smiles when they emerged from their closed-door talks at the Department of Foreign Affairs yesterday, but the strain in the two countries' ties was apparent.

Albert had previously said she and Ricciardone would issue a joint statement, but there was none because they could not agree on how it should be worded, a high Philippine official said.

"They could not agree on the details," the official said, asking for anonymity.

The result was that Albert and Ricciardone delivered separate remarks to the media.

Reuters quoted an unnamed official as saying that the US side rejected the draft of a proposed joint statement because "the Americans found the statement too friendly."

The ties between the two countries had been strained by the Philippines' decision to withdraw its troops from Iraq last month in order to save truck driver Angelo

US ENVOY/A4

AMID strained Philippine-American ties, Foreign Secretary Delia Albert and US Ambassador Francis Ricciardone shake hands after meeting with journalists. ERIK ARAZAS

Traders, senators warn GMA on oil tax

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr., Abigail L. Ho and Christine O. Avendaño

BUSINESSMEN and several senators are urging President Macapagal-Arroyo to go slow on her proposal to slap an additional P2 per liter tax on petroleum products because it would further fan inflation and choke economic growth.

"As world prices of oil surge to 21-year highs, it would be an uncaring government that would levy higher fuel taxes at a time when costly petroleum products have already made food and basic necessities more expensive," Sen. Ralph Recto, chair of the Senate ways and means committee, said.

The additional tax on fuel is one of eight tax measures that Ms Arroyo wants Congress to pass to cover the expected budget deficit of about P200 billion this year and finance her pro-poor programs.

Recto's counterpart in the House of Representatives said these measures were set to run into opposition in the Senate, despite the government's majority there.

Rep. Jesli Lapus, chair of the House ways and means committee, said that although the lower house was likely to pass the bills, some of the more controversial plans may not win approval until next year.

Taxing oil products might be the most convenient and efficient way to raise revenues but it was also the most "damaging" to the economy, according to Miguel Varela, chair of Philippines Inc.

Varela said the additional tax on petroleum products would trigger similar increases in the cost of transportation, electricity, services and manufactured goods and more pressure on employers to raise wages.

The Trade Union Congress of the Philippines is already considering filing a new wage petition to offset the expected rise in prices of commodities and fares

TRADERS/A6

TURUAN NA LANG MAG-TOOTHBRUSH!

Gorilla 'calls' for dentist

WOODSIDE, California—When Koko the gorilla used the American Sign Language gesture for pain and pointed to her mouth, 12 specialists, including three dentists, sprang into action.

The result? Her first full medical examination in about 20 years, an extracted tooth and a clean bill of health.

About a month ago, Koko, a 135-kilogram-plus (300-pound-plus) ape who

GORILLA/A4

Twins' mom faces quandary: Who to stay with?

NEW YORK—Which one should she stay with?

It was a sweet, if strange, predicament for Arlene Aguirre, whose twin sons Carl and Clarence—born joined at the head in 2002—were surgically separated last week at Montefiore Medical Center in the Bronx.

Carl was taken from his room on Sunday for a routine Computerized Axial Tomography (CAT) Scan.

"This is the first time he's leaving his brother alone," hospital spokesperson Steve Osborne quoted Arlene as saying.

Osborne said a nurse reported that the mother looked perplexed, "like she didn't know which boy to stay with."

In the end, Arlene decided to go with Carl for the test, leaving her mother, Evelindia, with Clarence.

Since the 17-hour operation on Wednesday, the boys have shared a room in the pediatric intensive care unit, sedated in side-by-side beds.

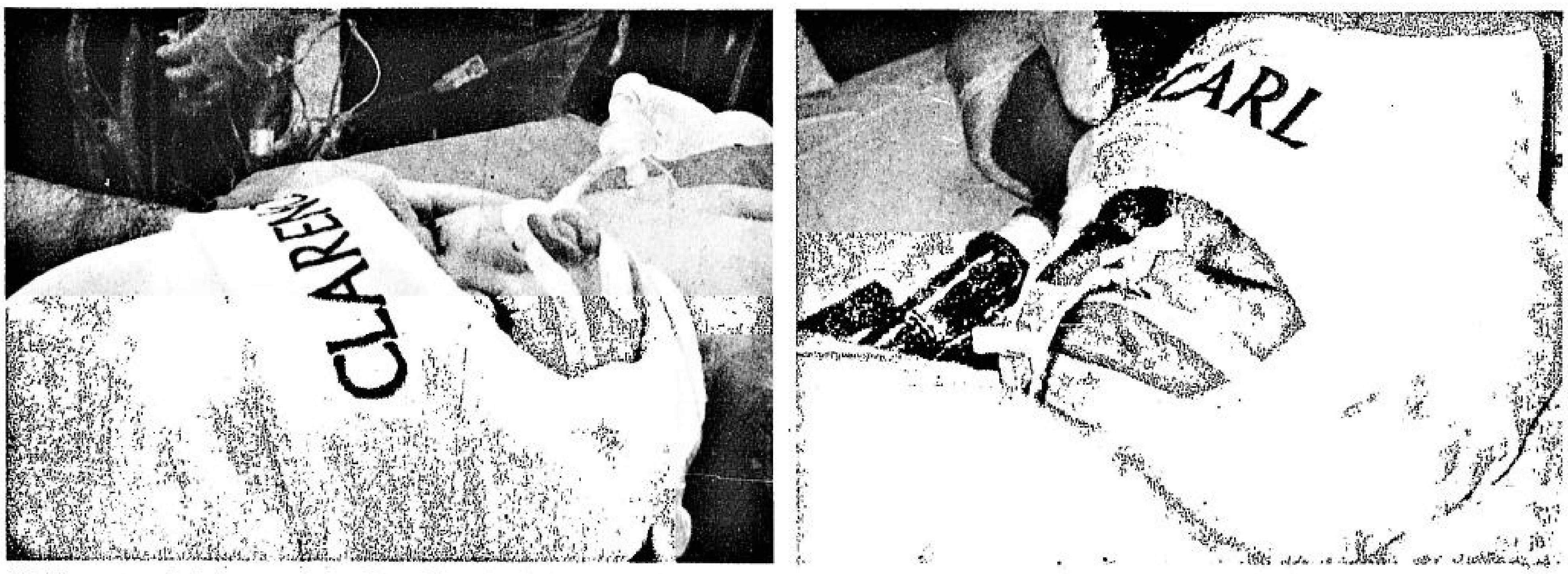
Dr. David Staffenberg, plastic surgeon, said the boys were recovering so well that the sedative, which keeps them from moving too much, might be reduced today.

"They're really rambunctious kids, so [the sedation] is protective," Staffenberg said.

Individually, the twins face several more operations. For instance, Staffenberg said, their skulls still need to be reconstructed. Even so, doctors and relatives are pleased with the boys' progress.

Staffenberg earlier described his little

TWINS' MOM/A4



AFTER an extremely delicate operation, the world awaits the first face-to-face meeting of erstwhile conjoined twins Carl and Clarence Aguirre. AFP

Second FRONTPAGE
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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Central and Southern Luzon, and Western Visayas will experience occasional monsoon rains. The rest of Luzon and Visayas will have cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. Mindanao will be mostly cloudy with rainshowers and thunderstorms.

COMPILED BY: CHONA GALANG, PDI RESEARCH/08/10/04 SOURCE PAGASA

Metro Manila	Occasional Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Occasional Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Occasional Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Occasional Rains
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Occasional Rains	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Occasional Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Occasional Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Occasional Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Now, it's general vs general

By Michael Lim Ubac

AS IF the animosity between Senators Edgardo Angara and Panfilo Lacson were not enough, two other senators – both retired generals – figured in their own altercation at yesterday's Senate session.

Taking the rostrum, Sen. Rodolfo Biazon denounced Sen. Alfredo Lim, a member of the minority, for using the word "swapang" (selfish) to describe the 14-member majority which had appropriated for itself the chairmanships of 28 of the 36 standing Senate committees.

Lim uttered the word while interpellating Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile who had chastised the majority for leaving the "garbage" committees to the minority.

"We do not beg for committees; we are not beggars," Enrile had said. He then enunciated the position of the nine-member minority bloc to junk the eight "leftover" committees – on cooperatives; cultural communities; civil service and government reorganization; peace, unification and reconciliation; public information and mass media; social justice, welfare and rural development; urban planning, housing and resettlement; and youth, women and family relations.

Speaking for the majority, Biazon said he "took exception" to Lim's statement, and hoped that Lim had uttered the word "without casting aspersions on the motives of the majority."

Lim then stood up to rebut Biazon, but was preempted by Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan who moved to suspend the session for one minute.

During the break, however, Biazon tried to approach Lim, who was seated on the other side of the aisle, and Lim quickly stood up to face Biazon.

With only the rostrum separating them, the two senators exchanged heated words, and might have come to blows, had not the other senators intervened.

When the session resumed, Lim told the chamber that he had merely been pointing out the disparity in the allocation of chairmanships even among the majority senators when he uttered the word "swapang."

He protested Biazon's "aggressive manner in standing up and coming toward the rostrum."

"I think, if I may interpret that, it was a provocation. We are honorable gentlemen here. I do hope this thing will pass, and I didn't mean to hurt the feelings of the gentleman from Muntinlupa, much less was I stating that he was craving a three-man chairmanship. I was speaking in a general sense," Lim said.

Baizon heads the committees on national defense and housing.

KNP offered Ping P400M to withdraw–aide

By Christine O. Avendaño

THE OPPOSITION Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino (KNP) offered Sen. Panfilo "Ping" Lacson P400 million to withdraw in Fernando Poe Jr.'s favor in the May 10 elections, an adviser to Lacson said yesterday.

In a statement, Lacson's political adviser Angelito Banayo said the money was to reimburse the senator for his campaign expenses.

Banayo said the KNP through its campaign manager, Makati City Mayor Jejomar Binay, also offered Lacson his choice of Cabinet members in a Poe administration but Lacson rejected the twin offers.

Banayo said he made the statement to counter Sen. Edgardo Angara's claim that it was Lacson who had demanded reimbursement of his campaign expenses and the right to name half of Poe's Cabinet as a condition for his withdrawal from the presidential race.

Poe and Lacson both ran against President Macapagal-Arroyo, effectively splitting the opposition and ensuring Ms Arroyo's victory. Numerous talks to unify the opposition before the elections between Angara and Makati City Rep. Agapito "Butz" Aquino, leader of the other faction of the opposition, all came to naught.

Banayo said the Poe and Lacson camps met on May 2 in an attempt to unify and it was there that Binay made the offer.

The meeting was held in Aquino's Makati office where Lacson was represented by Aquino, Banayo and San Juan Rep. Ronaldo Zamora, while Poe was represented by Binay, Sen. Gregorio Honasan and Ilocos Norte Rep. Imee Marcos.

"He (Binay) said that if Poe were to become President, Ping could be the Senate President and either Butz or Ronny [Zamora] could be Speaker," Banayo said.

He said Binay then talked about "reimbursement of campaign expenses."

Banayo said Binay referred to the rumored P300-million payoff between the camps of President Arroyo and Raul Roco, another presidential candidate. Zamora asked if the P300 million was paid up-front.

Banayo quoted Binay as saying: "'*Hindi naman. Madaling magkaintindihan diyan. Pwede na ba ang* P400 million (Not really. That's easy to negotiate. Would P400 million be okay)?"

Binay then went to a white board to point out another "term of reference," this time involving government positions, and asked what Cabinet positions they wanted for Lacson to give way.

"Nobody from our side uttered a word. Binay repeated his offer, adding, '*Pati mga* sub-Cabinet level *puede pag-usapan. Halimbawa* Customs or BIR (Even sub-Cabinet posts like Customs or BIR could be negotiated),'" Banayo quoted Binay as saying.

Banayo said Lacson rejected the "terms of reference" given by Binay.

But Lacson told them he would continue talking to Poe's camp, "just so they won't say I snubbed them," Banayo said.

Yesterday, after a minority caucus, Angara and Lacson agreed to a "ceasefire" in the word war that erupted between them last week over Lacson's membership in the opposition.

The ceasefire came hours after Banayo released his statement.

Palace: Mindanao no terrorist haven

By Juliet Labog-Javellana
and Alcuin Papa

MALACAÑANG yesterday balked at the description of the Philippines—Mindanao in particular—as a haven for terrorists by the United States independent commission which investigated the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on New York and Washington.

"The report is outdated and there is no sense in inflicting this label on the Philippines when we have already neutralized terror on various fronts," said presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye in a statement.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines also objected to the US commission's description of Mindanao, saying the military had done a lot to degrade the capabilities and activities of terrorists on the southern island.

"I think it's a wrong description of what Mindanao is at present. I don't think it is a haven. When you say haven, that means there is permanent control of an area on the ground," said AFP spokesperson Lt. Col. Daniel Lucero yesterday.

The Abu Sayyaf Group has been operating in Mindanao for the past decade while intelligence reports have said that around 40 members of the Indonesia-based Jemaah Islamiyah, a terror group with links to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network, are hiding out in a mountain range in Lanao del Sur where they are reportedly training local terrorists.

The military had in fact arrested a number of members of these two groups in Metro Manila and Mindanao.

Bunye said President Macapagal-Arroyo has "fought terrorism like nobody before."

"We had been up against terrorism even before 9/11 and that is why we were the first to join the global fight against terror," he said.

"Since then, we have successfully mounted offensives that have virtually crippled the Abu Sayyaf and pushed the JI deep underground," he added.

The President said last week the recent arrest of two local JI operatives who were suspects in the bloody Rizal Day bombings in Metro Manila four years ago was proof the Philippines was a "strong link" in the global fight against terror.

US renews order classifying CPP-NPA as terrorist group

WASHINGTON—The United States has renewed an order classifying the insurgent Communist Party of the Philippines as a foreign terrorist organization, a government public notice said.

The decision was made by Secretary of State Colin Powell based on a review of records and in consultation with the Attorney General and the Secretary of the Treasury, according to a public order issued by the department.

The Communist Party of the Philippines, also known as the CPP, and its guerrilla wing, the 8,600-strong New People's Army (NPA), have been waging a Maoist insurgency for the last 35 years.

The CPP-NPA and the al-Qaida-linked Muslim Abu Sayyaf guerrillas were designated foreign terror groups by Washington after the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks by Osama bin laden's al-Qaida terror network.

While Moro rebels are largely limited to Mindanao, the communists are known to be active in scattered areas throughout the nation.

In their latest actions, the communist guerrillas took two government soldiers hostage in March.

AFP

CONSUMER & OIL PRICE WATCH
Private Sector

SO THE PUBLIC MAY KNOW

Greater need for transparency as world crude prices soar

With the world crude prices soaring to record levels, there is a need for greater transparency in the pricing of petroleum products. The consumer has the right to know whether the price he is paying is fair, notwithstanding that the oil industry has been deregulated.

The "sole intent" of the Consumer & Oil Price Watch is to communicate to the public the basis for the price increases or rollback and NOT place the industry in a bad light.

The two benchmarks being used by the COPW for the past five years are:

1. Petroleum prices must reflect the changes in crude prices and peso-dollar exchange rate of the previous month compared to the current month. This simply means a price increase or rollback should be based on the previous month's composite average price of Dubai crude for the oil refiners, and the MOPS-Singapore (regional pricing) for the new oil players.
2. In measuring the inventory level for the new players who import finished products, it is 15 days. Therefore, price changes should take effect on the first 15 days of the following month.

For the oil refiners, it is one month so that changes in pricing should take effect on the third week of the following month.

The claim of the Independent Philippine Petroleum Companies Association (IPPCA) from January 2002 (2 ½ years) for under recovery of P0.78 centavos for gasoline and P3.81 for diesel is NOT in accordance with the two benchmarks.

Under recoveries due to competition between the big oil refiners whose prices are lower than the new players shows that "free market competition" is working and, therefore, the COPW should not be blamed for making irresponsible statements.

It is the responsibility of the IPPCA to explain to the consuming public why they are announcing their total under recoveries since January 2002 only now when world prices are escalating.

We have submitted to the oil refiners and new players our price computation showing an over recovery for gasoline and an under recovery for diesel for their comments before we make public the needed price adjustment.

In the light of the volatility in world petroleum prices, the COPW will issue a weekly update on the movement of Dubai crude and the MOPS regional prices for imported gasoline and diesel to inform the public what the reasonable price increase should be based on the benchmarks 1 and 2.

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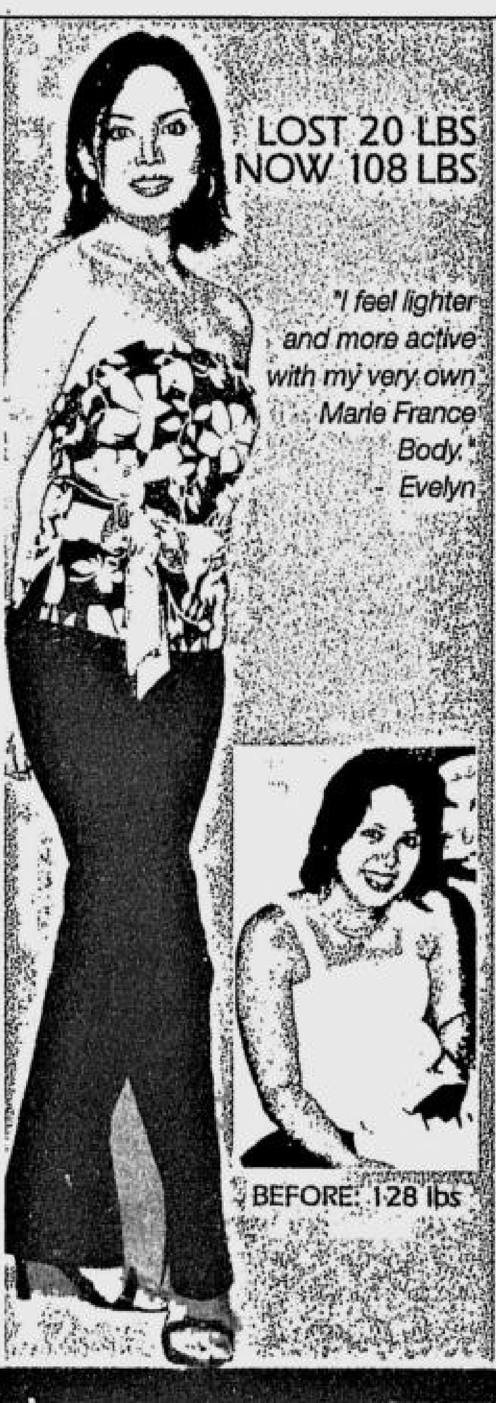
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US envoy says RP no longer part of coalition

From page A1

de la Cruz, whom Iraqi insurgents had threatened to behead.

The US and other allies were flustered by the move, saying it amounted to caving in to terror and would endanger the safety of other foreign troops who had chosen to remain in Iraq.

Ricciardone, in his impromptu remarks, said the Philippine pullout did strain relations.

"I wouldn't suggest to you that nothing happened. We did have a very serious disagreement. It is one that had an impact on our interests and also of the Philippines, as well as our allies and the Iraqis, and there's no gainsaying that," the envoy said.

Ricciardone also confirmed US state department spokesperson Richard Boucher's statement last week that the Philippines was no longer considered part of the US-led coalition.

"(Boucher) made a statement. I thought that it was very clear and I certainly have nothing to add to it or subtract from it," Ricciardone said. "(He) made very clear what he was talking about. I have nothing to add."

In so many words, the ambassador implied there was disagreement between him and Albert, who spoke to reporters ahead of him.

Only 'in general terms'

"I would associate myself to the statements of the secretary, in general terms," Ricciardone said.

But while Albert and Ricciardone highlighted in their statements the goodwill between their countries, DFA officials said the Philippines should be ready for any possible backlash from the United States.

"We are not off the hook yet," a DFA official said, according to Reuters. "They could still impose sanctions quietly. They don't have to announce it in public that they are retaliating."

This "readiness for retaliation" was one of the results of an assessment made by DFA officials a few days after De la Cruz was released, according to diplomatic sources.

One way by which the White House could "retaliate" against the Philippines is by delaying or reducing development aid supposed to be given to the country under President George W. Bush's. "Millennium Challenge Account," they said.

Another possibility is the denial of lucrative contracts to Philippine firms that want to take part in the Iraqi reconstruction. The contracts are supposed to be given preferentially to countries that joined or supported the US-led coalition that invaded Iraq in 2003.

In front of TV cameras, a smiling Albert extended her hand and Ricciardone took it, smiling back.

Ricciardone returned to Manila last week after reviewing bilateral ties with US officials in Washington.

No decision yet

Asked by a reporter if the Philippines remained "a major non-Nato ally," a designation announced by Washington last year, Ricciardone replied: "I don't think we've taken any decision with respect to that. It goes on."

The designation gives Manila greater access to US defense equipment and supplies.

In her prepared statement, Albert said her hourlong meeting with Ricciardone "symbolized our belief that relations remain vibrant."

The ties between the two countries "go beyond any disagreements we may have had over the issue on Iraq ... [and will] continue to be strong because of the deep respect we have for each other," Albert added.

Ricciardone echoed the same hope.

"These are things that are important to both of our countries. We respect that, we look forward to continuing to work together on that," the ambassador said.

No yielding to terror

Albert said Manila subscribed to the "multinational force statement on terrorism" issued by the United States on Aug. 4.

The US declaration, later adopted by other coalition members, laid down a policy of continuing support for Iraq's rehabilitation despite increasing terror attacks and abductions of foreigners by Iraqi militants.

"The Philippines will continue to do what it can, within its capabilities and pursuant to its interests in helping the people of Iraq," Albert said.

"It also continues to condemn the attacks of terrorism in Iraq, the attacks on innocent civilians and efforts to breed intolerance and hatred."

Both the secretary and the ambassador acknowledged century-old ties that were tightened by common political traditions and world wars fought together.

Albert added that, on the Iraq issue, both countries had far more areas of agreement. She pointed out the Philippines' shepherding of the UN Security Council Resolution No. 1546, which formally restored Iraqi sovereignty and authorized a US-led multinational force to help the interim government keep the peace.

Albert said cooperation with the US would continue in other areas. This was echoed by Ricciardone, who said: "We're going to work as hard as we can on all of the things that are important to both of our countries."

Albert cited the joint military training exercises between Filipino and American troops scheduled for throughout the year, the upcoming meeting of the RP-US Mutual Defense Board, the US-backed modernization of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, the peace talks and post-conflict rebuilding in Mindanao which the United States also supported, and the visit in September of an investment mission of the US-Asean Business Council.

Support for GMA

Until the De la Cruz hostage crisis erupted, Ms Arroyo has been hailed as one of Asia's staunchest backers of the US-led coalition in Iraq and the global war on terror. The Philippines is also a leading recipient of US military counterterrorism training assistance.

"We have said repeatedly we're disappointed that they did so, but we're continuing to cooperate in a variety of ways in the global war against terrorism," US Embassy spokesperson Ruth Urry said.

Still, it might be comforting for Ms Arroyo to know that when she agonized over whether or not to pull out Filipino troops from Iraq last month, there was somebody in Los Angeles who empathized with her.

Visiting US-based Filipino Bishop Oscar A. Solis yesterday recalled that he took pity on Ms Arroyo when she found herself in a tight fix in the wake of the abduction of De la Cruz.

"I feel sad if a government leader has to come to a situation where he has to make a decision for anybody. The decision of President Macapagal-Arroyo was a very unpopular decision," he said.

Solis, 50, auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, however, said that while the move strained the country's relations with its allies, this saved the life of one person.

"In reality, we're saving the life of an individual. The value of life is very important," he told reporters.

The bishop also hinted that Manila did not deserve the criticisms that came its way in the wake of the pullout, saying that it had to decide "what is good" for its people, especially those working overseas.

"It's a sovereign nation," he said.

Solis, however, said the pullout was not a "big issue" among the 400,000 Filipinos living in Los Angeles.

"I would say that my task is to extend my support and blessings that God will inspire her (Ms Arroyo) and the Holy Spirit will help her to come up with proper decision on how to lead the country," said Solis, who is to call on the President some time this week.

"I know how challenging it is for a leader of the nation to be confronted by such issues."

Solis is in the Philippines to lead the celebration on Aug. 15 of the 40th anniversary of the Maria Assumpta Seminary in Cabanatuan City, his alma mater where he once taught after college and became its dean after his ordination.

He said he was also taking this opportunity to touch base and "retrace" his relationship with classmates, seminary "formators" and friends. *With a report from TJ Burgonio*

Twins' mom faces quandary

From page A1

patients as "bouncing back like off a slingshot."

The procedure that the Aguirre twins underwent differed from previous separations in that the surgical team performed four operations over several months. The boys and their mother arrived from Manila in September last year with the help of the Philippine Airlines Foundation. The foundation also flew Evelindia in last week.

Private room

All the doctors and the two hospitals involved—the Children's Hospital at Montefiore Medical Center (CHAM) and the Blythedale Children's Hospital in Valhalla, where the Aguirres used to stay between operations—are donating their services.

Now, Arlene has a private room in CHAM's intensive care unit if she needs to sleep, but she spends nearly all her time with her sons.

"She's still trying to get over, I think, the whole saga," Staffenberg said. "I can't imagine what it must be like for her to finally see them in separate beds."

Arlene told "Dateline NBC" that she had big dreams for her sons.

"What I'm really planning for them, if I really can afford, is for them to go to medical school," she said in an interview aired Sunday. "One is the neurosurgeon and one is the plastic surgeon."

She has immediate hopes as well: "I'm hoping I can see them running, walking ... just like normal babies." *AP*

Gorilla, who speaks sign language, calls for dentist

From page A1

became famous for mastering more than 1,000 signs, began telling her handlers at the Gorilla Foundation in Woodside that she was in pain. They quickly constructed a pain chart, offering Koko a scale from one to 10.

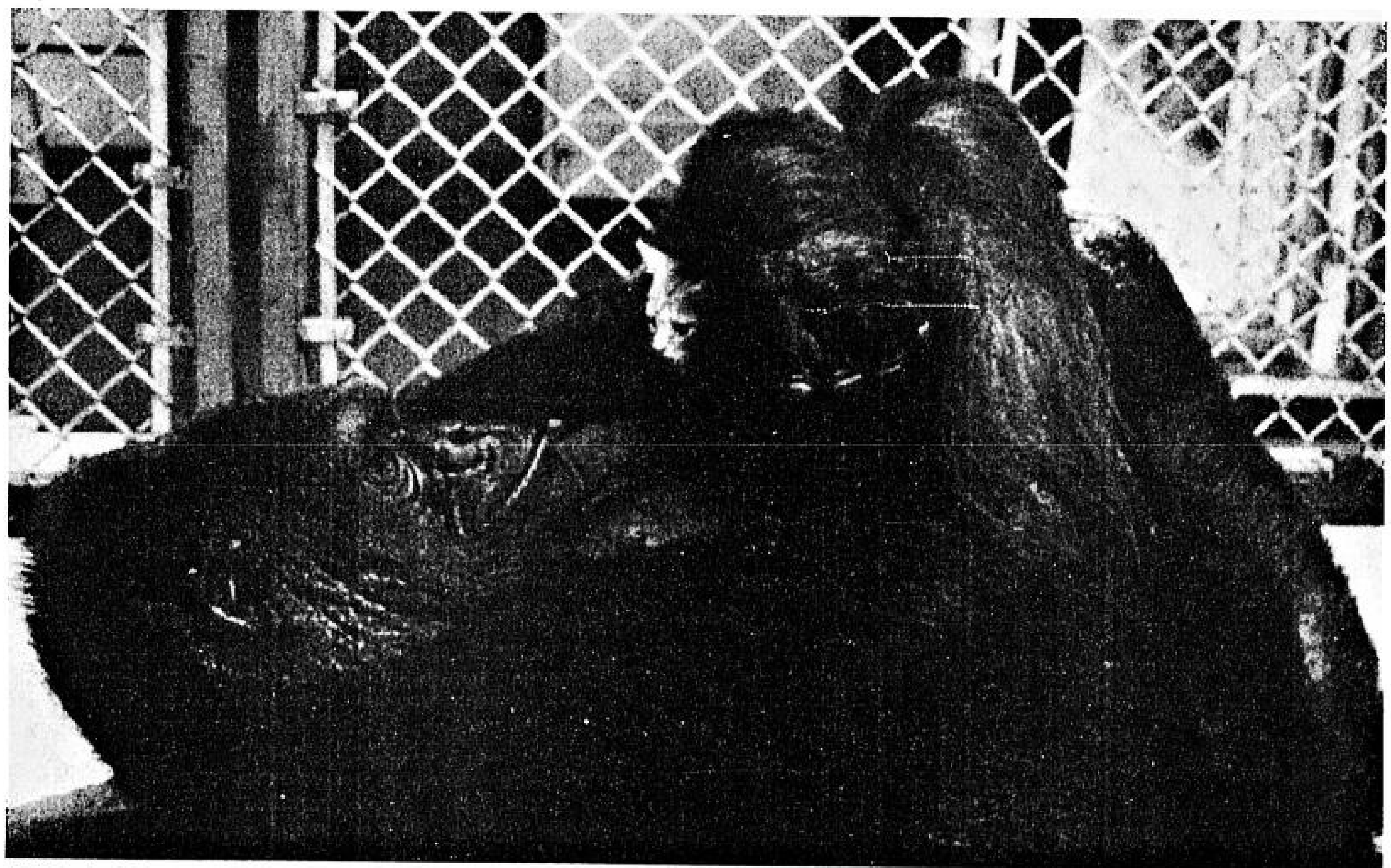
When Koko started pointing to nine or 10 too often, a dental appointment was made. And because anesthesia would be involved, her handlers used the opportunity to give Koko a head-to-toe exam.

Feeling bad

"She's quite articulate," volunteer Johnpaul Slater said. "She'll tell us how bad she's feeling, how bad the pain is. It looked like it was time to do something."

Twelve specialists—a Stanford cardiologist, three anesthesiologists, three dentists, an ear and throat specialist, two veterinarians, a gastroenterologist and a gynecologist—volunteered to help.

"It's not often that we get to work on a celebrity," said Dr. David Liang, an assistant professor of medicine at Stanford. "Probably, Koko is less demanding."



KOKO, the 230-pound gorilla who converses in sign language, is shown in 1985 file photo admiring her new kitten. AP

The team came to Koko on Sunday, bringing portable X-ray and ultrasound machines. They set up shop at her "apartment," which looks like a remodeled box car, complete with a makeshift toilet, television, DVD player and lots of toys.

After four hours of tests—including a colonoscopy, gynecological exam, dental work, X-rays and ultrasounds—doctors pronounced Koko fit.

Koko, who celebrated her 33rd birthday on July 4, was due for a checkup. While gorillas in captivity are known to live into their 50s, they are susceptible to heart disease and a thickening of the arteries.

Biological problems

Koko and Ndume, her partner of 11 years (he doesn't "speak"), have been trying unsuccessfully to have a baby. The doctors thought the checkup could let them know whether Koko had any biological problems preventing it. She doesn't.

Koko's teacher, Francine Patterson, was at her student's side when the anesthesiologist prepared to put the gorilla under in the morning.

Apparently, Koko also asked to meet her specialists.

Playing favorite

They crowded around her, and Koko, who plays favorites, asked one woman wearing red to come closer. The woman handed her a business card, which Koko promptly ate.

Otherwise, Koko was calm, Liang said.

The Gorilla Foundation has studied gorilla intelligence by teaching American Sign Language to Koko and another gorilla, Michael, who died in 2000. *AP*

Corrections

IN THE Aug. 7 issue, a front-page story—"Most Pinoys don't believe GMA won, says survey"—misstated that Ibon Foundation consultant Tom Tallado was connected with the UP School of Statistics. The information was provided by Rhea de los Santos, Ibon Foundation's media and publications officer. Tallado is a faculty member of UP Iloilo and a Ph.D. student at UP Diliman's College of Social Sciences and Philosophy.

* * *

IN THE Aug. 8 issue, a Lifestyle story on Page D2—"Loudest whisper in Quezon fish port"—misstated the location of the Dalahican fish port. The fish port is in Lucena City—not Pagbilao, Quezon.

* * *

THE STORY "Memorials to romance and history," which was published Aug. 8 on Page E1 of the Lifestyle section, identified one of the house owners in Lucena City as the Quebral family. The correct family name is Queblar.

* * *

IN THE Aug. 8 issue, a story on Page A8—"Millions of texters set protest"—misstated that the antitax protest by the group Txt Power could be the first cyber protest in the country. There had been previous cyber protests in the Philippines. In November 2000, the website pldt.com launched an oust-Erap campaign. In September 2001, "Oplan Txt GMA" was launched to protest the move of telecommunications firms to reduce free text messages. There were also cyber protests at the height of the impeachment case against Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. last year.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to Gerry Lirio, city editor, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City; fax Nos. 897-4793/94; e-mail addresses:glirio@inquirer.com.ph and daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

Complaints about lack of fairness or objectivity may be sent to Raul Palabrica, readers' advocate, the same address and fax numbers as those of the city editor, and e-mail address:rpalabrica@inquirer.com.ph.

'Jesus-Mary' book doesn't impress Fil-Am bishop

From page A1

the controversial hypothesis that Jesus Christ and Mary Magdalene had been lovers.

The INQUIRER asked about the book in an interview yesterday. "It's a figment of the author's imagination," the bishop said.

Solis—who in February became the first Filipino-born priest to be ordained a bishop in the United States—is in town for a two-week vacation. He has been based in America for 15 years and is now auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles.

'Code' virus

He conceded that the suspense novel authored by Dan Brown and released last year was a "sensation" in the US. Local book lovers have caught the "Code" virus.

The bishop pointed out that Brown's convincing power came mostly from a talent for situating portions of his tale in existing historical places, like the Louvre in Paris; or finding a connection with art pieces that "we can see," like Leonardo Da Vinci's famous painting, "The Last Supper."

Solis explained further: "Brown is a very ingenious man to have utilized concrete, objective representations, and then [to] impart or interject his personal opinion and understanding of what happened. I mean, he was brilliant in some way because he was able to maximize his talent for creating situations in order to make a controversy. And controversy is always a selling point."

Actually, he hadn't read the book because, as he told the INQUIRER, "I have more pressing things to read about."

Even so, he is often approached by parishioners who want to know "if it's true." Solis said he would usually ask back: "From which section of the store did you get the book?" Because the answer would invariably be "fiction," he would dispense this piece of advice: "You don't take everything you read as a factual representation of the truth."

This is not to say Catholics should steer clear of the "Code," the bishop clarified. He's just saying, "We should take it with a grain of salt."

'Ethnic ministry'

Solis, 50, met members of the press yesterday at his sister Celia's residence in White Plains subdivision in Quezon City. As an auxiliary bishop, he is tasked with pursuing an "ethnic ministry" in the LA archdiocese, where he is now conducting a study on the special "issues, concerns and needs" of his flock, which includes some 400,000 Filipinos.

Among those who often approach him for guidance "or just to have their stories heard," he said, are Filipino contract workers or immigrants who miss loved ones left behind in the Philippines, and those who "feel guilty" about turning over their aging parents to nursing homes.

"I explain to them that we have to make choices ... that they should feel for themselves what is best," Solis said.

The faithful should not be confused; this last piece of advice is for non-fiction stuff.

FILIPINO-AMERICAN Bishop Oscar Azarcon Solis visits his sister's house in White Plains, Quezon City. JOAN BONDOC

14 out of 51 cases solved, says PNP of media deaths

By Christian V. Esguerra

UNDER pressure by media groups, the Philippine National Police yesterday said it had solved 14 out of the 51 cases of journalists killed in the last 20 years.

Although the crime solution rate is less than 50 percent, PNP spokesman Chief Supt. Joel Goltiao said it showed that the PNP did not actually come up empty-handed in solving the killings of journalists.

"When we say a case has been solved, we mean that a case has been filed and perpetrators have been sent to jail," he told the INQUIRER.

But Goltiao said a case was considered closed even if not all of the perpetrators, including the mastermind, had been captured and subsequently charged in court.

The PNP said three journalists were killed by communist rebels who ambushed a military convoy which included the victims.

At least two journalists were also killed during the series of coup attempts in the late 1980s, according to Goltiao.

The rest of the cases involved journalists killed by hired guns, he said.

The PNP is hoping to stop the killings of journalists by creating Task Force Newsman, a composite team of Criminal Investigation and Detection Group and Intelligence Group operatives.

Goltiao said a reporter receiving death threats can go to the task force for help. If the threat is found to be credible, the reporter will be provided appropriate security, he said.

Another measure is the issuance of permit to carry firearms outside of residence (PTCFOR) to journalists facing threats.

AFP: It's Palace's call to stop military operation

By Alcuin Papa and Norman Bordadora

IT'S UP to Malacañang to declare a suspension of military offensives (Somo) against the New People's Army in order to pave the way for the release of the two soldiers the communist rebels are holding, a military spokesperson said yesterday.

Lt. Col. Daniel Lucero said the military was not in a position to declare a Somo in Camarines Sur and Albay as demanded by the NPA as a condition for the release of Lt. Ronaldo Fidelino and Pfc. Ronel Nemeño.

"We are not the official body to issue a Somo. We take orders from our political leaders," Lucero told reporters yesterday.

For its part, the Philippine Army as a matter of policy, does "not negotiate with these international terrorists," said PA spokesperson Lt. Col. Buenaventura Pascual.

"Our duty as soldiers as mandated by the Constitution is to pursue enemies of the state. If the [NPA] is really talking about humanitarian considerations, [the hostages] should be released unconditionally," Pascual told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

The NPA said Sunday it was postponing the release of the two soldiers because of the continuing military offensives against it in the Bicol region. It said the two were to have been freed last week following an agreement between the National Democratic Front, the umbrella organization of the communists in the country, and the government. The rebels said they "had no choice but to cancel the release with regrets."

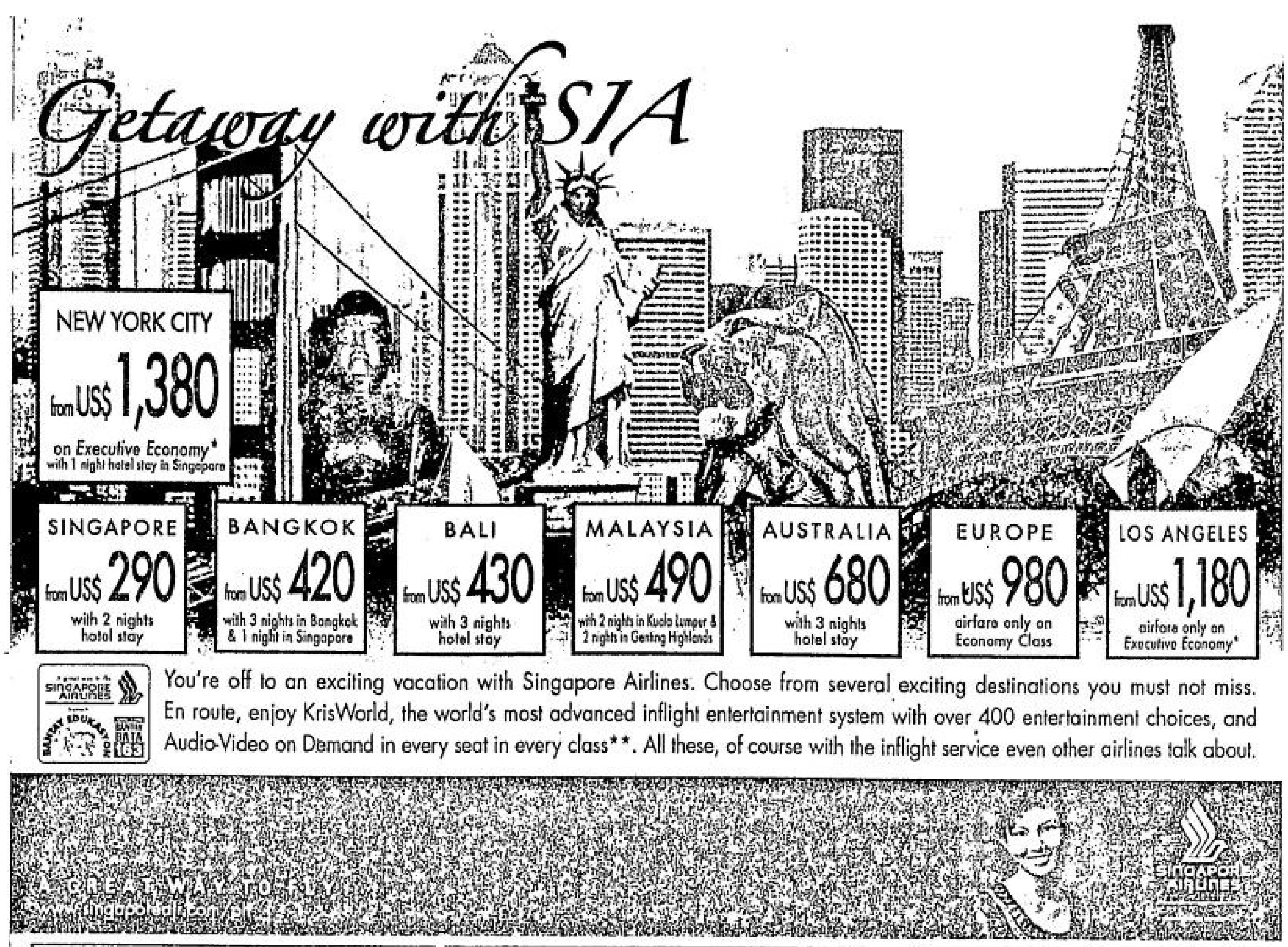
Fidelino and Nemeño were captured by the NPA's Romulo Jallores Command on March 1 this year following an encounter in Barangay Bataan, Tinambac, Camarines Sur.

Fidelino's wife Leah had appealed to the NPA to release her husband in time for the second birthday of their daughter Alea Nicole on Aug. 16.

But Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal, spokesperson of the Communist Party of the Philippines, said yesterday the military insists on rescuing the two "prisoners of war" instead of allowing the NPA to effect a peaceful turnover of the captives.

"The military does not want the public to see a safe and orderly release of the POWs and instead insists on pursuing its rescue operations in order to show off, despite consistent failures," said Rosal.

Rosal's statements dimmed the chances of Fidelino making it home for his daughter's birthday.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GMA wants more studies on BNPP

From page A1

Bunye yesterday said that Ms Arroyo was determined to pursue her energy independence program with or without the proposed conversion of the mothballed nuclear facility into a gas-fired project.

The fate of the Bataan plant will now depend on the outcome of a "technical feasibility" study being conducted by the Department of Energy, he said.

Asked if the conversion of the plant in Morong town was no longer a priority of Ms Arroyo Bunye said: "We're not saying that. We're saying that there are many other initiatives and the others can go ahead while the technical feasibility on this power plant is being prepared.

"We have to live with the reality of a global oil crunch in the future. We must exhaust all options to secure our economic future," he said.

Scientists also up in arms

Several lawmakers have vigorously opposed the idea of refitting the Bataan plant to make it operate on natural gas, contending it was a rehash of old ideas already discarded by past administrations and would be costlier than building an entirely new plant to run on natural gas.

Yesterday, a group of Filipino scientists also opposed the conversion plan, saying it would only leave the country shackled to foreign entities and would not achieve the goal of reaching energy self-sufficiency.

Built in 1984 during the regime of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos, the Bataan plant has been a financial burden for the country, which continues to pay $155,000 a day to service debts from the plant. The entire foreign-funded project is estimated to have cost more than $2 billion.

Ms Arroyo cited the conversion of the Bataan plant last week when she unveiled a five-point program to achieve energy independence anchored on the switch-on by next year of four idle power facilities, including the one in Morong.

Malacañang backtracks

The Palace has since backtracked from the idea.

"In other words, the DOE will be submitting this feasibility study, but right now, I think we can proceed with the other items in the energy independence program of the President," Bunye said in a briefing.

"With or without this, we could go ahead with the other initiatives ... so that we will be able to dampen the effects of the increase in (oil) prices."

"We will push ahead with the essential items in the President's energy independence package, such as the more extensive use of natural gas, developing coco diesel, and enlisting alternative sources of energy to stabilize prices and supply in the long term," Bunye said.

The other idle plants Ms Arroyo had said she wanted to reactive were the 850-MW Sucat, the 620-MW Limay and the 650-MW Malaya.

Conversion cost: $600M

In a statement yesterday, the Samahan ng Nagtataguyod ng Agham at Teknolohiya para sa Sambayanan (Agham) slammed the government for trying to revive an idea that, it said, would only cost more than it was actually worth.

"Conversion of the plant is costly and studies have shown it is not feasible, and yet the government is intent to sell it despite the large debt burden we face from the mothballed plant," said Agham national chair Giovanni Tapang of the University of the Philippines.

An in-house study conducted by independent power producer Korea Electric Power Corp. (Kepco) several years back showed that converting the Bataan plant into a facility using another type of fuel would cost more than $600 million.

Using the industry rule-of-thumb of $1 million per MW of capacity, Kepco said the amount that amount could already bankroll the establishment of an entirely new 600-MW.plant.

Why not revive it?

Kepco Philippines Corp. president and chief executive Lee Gil Gu said in an earlier interview that rehabilitating the nuclear power facility would be a better option than converting it into something it was not designed for in the first place.

"Rehabilitating the power plant is okay, but conversion is not feasible. Conversion entails too much cost, so that will make the plant not viable," he said.

"Our estimate from several years ago (on how much it will take to convert the plant) is around $600 million. But considering the escalation of costs, this will be even higher now. With that amount, we'll be able to put up another power plant," he added.

Debt repayments for the Bataan plant would not be completed until 2018.

Administration Sen. Ralph Recto earlier said that taxpayers still had to carry the burden of some $80.4 million more in debt repayments over the coming years.

This year, he said, the government was scheduled to remit payments worth $38.2 million to two Japanese, one Swiss and two American banks.

The amount that the government had to pay these creditors, he said, was even bigger than the 2004 budget of the Department of Energy.

Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago, incoming chair of the Senate committee on energy, said the conversion of the Bataan plant plus its operation would entail huge expenses.

"Where will we get capital for this and will the group that would undertake the operation of the plant be willing to take on the debts that the government continues to pay?" she asked reporters.

Opposition Sen. Edgardo Angara said he would welcome the idea "if it is economically viable."

Recto urged the inclusion of private individuals in a group that would study the feasibility of converting the plant into a gas-powered facility. He mentioned former Sen. Rene Saguisag, former Energy Secretary Delfin Lazaro and whoever UP President Francisco Nemenzo would recommend. *With a report from Christine O. Avendaño*

It's now GMA's turn to flirt with the phantom

IT HAS spawned charges of greed and corruption, triggered lawsuits in the Philippines, the United States and Europe, and bewitched president after president since Ferdinand Marcos built it in 1984.

Worse, Filipinos still pay for its costs—$155,000 every day in interest alone—although it has failed to produce a single spark of electricity in all the 20 years it has sat like a phantom over Morong town in Bataan.

Intended to illumine factories and homes, the mothballed, 620-MW Bataan nuclear power plant may have even helped, ironically, to darken Filipinos' lives.

Economists say the fortune the Philippines has sunk into the project whose costs exceed $2 billion, could have been used to build schools, hospitals and clinics, bridges and farm-to-market roads.

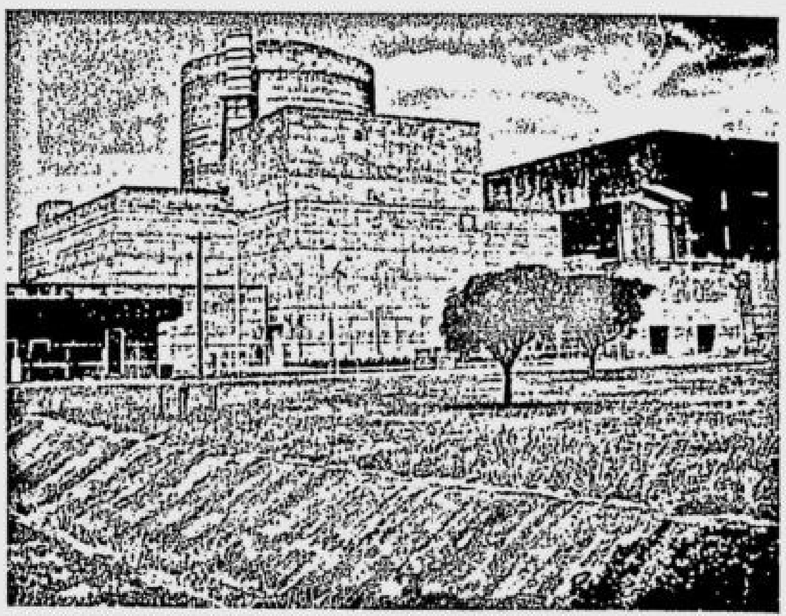
Plans for its construction were conceived in the early 1970s when the world faced an oil crisis. Its defenders said there was need for nuclear energy because sources of fossil fuels would eventually run out.

The dictator never got to operate it. When its construction was completed in 1984 under a deal with the US firm Westinghouse, the country was already seething with demonstrations. In less than two years, Marcos would be gone.

Taking over from Marcos in 1986, Corazon Aquino declared the deal with Westinghouse was fraudulent. Her administration refused to operate the plant, citing safety concerns, among others. International experts had said the plant was built near major earthquake fault lines.

Hefty commissions

In 1988, the Aquino administration sued Westinghouse and engineering company Burns & Roe Enterprises Inc. before a New Jersey court, seeking to invalidate the deal. The two firms were accused of bribing Marcos to win the contract.



THE MOTHBALLED Bataan nuclear plant project. PDI PHOTO

Marcos' crony, Herminio Disini, was the alleged conduit of the pay-off supposedly amounting to $18 million in commissions.

Last year, the Supreme Court upheld the filing of graft charges against Disini.

"The Bataan nuclear power plant is a monumental billion-dollar non-performing white elephant which our impoverished people are still paying for even if they have not benefited from it all," the court said.

In 1991, Westinghouse moved to dismiss the New Jersey case after a Geneva-based arbitration tribunal said that there was no sufficient proof of bribery.

'Debt of dishonor'

A presidential panel opposed Westinghouse's bid but later accepted a $100-million out-of-court settlement with the US firm.

While denouncing the Westinghouse deal, Aquino rejected calls for her to repudiate the "debt of dishonor" on the ground that it was an international commitment. Presidents after her unfailingly hewed to the same line.

In 1995, then President Fidel V. Ramos ordered the conversion of the facility into a non-nuclear plant.

But a study showed it would be cheaper to build an entirely new natural gas power plant in Batangas, nearer to Palawan's natural gas.

Joseph Estrada appeared to be the only President after Marcos who dared not touch the nuclear "dynamite."

'Good vs evil'

He didn't have to. The threat of a major power crisis never confronted him.

Now, facing the possibility of power shortage in Luzon by 2008 unless she acts urgently, it is President Macapagal-Arroyo's time to flirt with the phantom.

Former National Treasurer Leonor Briones finds a parallel between the Bataan plant story and the "Star Wars" saga, seeing in them a "classic tale of good vs. evil."

"What makes the story interesting is that there's no end to it," Briones has said. "The nuclear nightmare refuses to go away. You forget about it for a while and then it's back in the news again."

D.J. Yap, PDI Research Bureau

'Txtrs, revolt! Snd no 2 txt-tax 2 JdV'

From page A1

firms was among the eight tax measures President Macapagal-Arroyo asked Congress to pass last month to help narrow the budget deficit, which in the first half reached P80.1 billion, exceeding a government-set ceiling. The deficit is expected to hit about P200 billion this year.

Another group of consumers said that no matter what words the government used to describe its tax on text, cell phone users would find it more costly to send text messages.

"They want to call it a tax on windfall profit. But they're unleashing the very same dog on consumers. Government should not overtax the people by creating new taxes and/or increasing present tax rates," the Students Opposing Taxes on Texting (StOpTax) said in a statement.

20 centavos per text

StOpTax spokesperson Earl Arezamendez warned of an increase of as much as 20 centavos per text message.

He said the government was just waiting for an opportune moment to levy 20 centavos on every text message sent by users of cellular phones in the country.

"The writing's on the wall. Notwithstanding the sky-high world prices of crude oil that naturally jacked up the prices of gasoline, diesel and LPG, government still increased the tariff on crude from 3 to 5 percent," Arezamendez said.

Txt Power said the tax on text was a dictate of the International Monetary Fund that the Arroyo administration seemed bent on following.

"The government already imposes a 10-percent value-added tax and a 10-percent overseas communications tax on cell phone services. The government is actually one of the reasons why cellular phone services are expensive," Cruz said.

CONSUMER groups protest government plan to tax text messages. RUDY ESPERAS

Petition on Internet

Txt Power (http://txtpower.cp-union.org) has also posted a petition on the Internet and asked supporters to add their names to the document asking Congress to scrap the tax measure.

Mobile phone users can sign up to join the protest by sending a text to a dedicated cellular phone number which would collect all messages. The petition is then going to be passed to Congress.

"We are calling on all consumers opposed to the imposition of the new taxes on our cell phones to participate in the cyber rally," Txt Power said.

"Using the very medium the government wants to tax, we can show how we vehemently oppose these impositions on cell phones that are being passed to consumers."

Popular protests have a history of success in the Philippines, where in 2001 campaigners rallied hundreds of thousands onto the streets in a peaceful revolt called Edsa II that toppled the corruption-tainted President Joseph Estrada.

Edsa II gathered the protesters through text messages that helped raise the revenues and profitability of cellular phone service operators.

A text revolt this time will further boost the profitability of Smart and Globe, the two biggest cell phone companies in the country.

Already, Smart posted a net income of P11.6 billion in the first six months of the year, up 90 percent from the same period in 2003. Globe registered a net income of P6.9 billion, up 15 percent from the same period last year. *With a report from AFP*

Traders, senators warn GMA on oil tax

From page A1

caused by the oil price increases.

Australian Peter Wallace, head of Wallace Business Forum, said the car-driving middle class would be hit head-on by the new tax on gasoline but the poor could be sideswiped because of the inflationary impact of higher oil prices.

Wallace estimated that the oil tax would push up inflation (which jumped to a three-year high of 6 percent last month) by at least half a percentage point and slow down economic growth by the same amount.

He said that while he agreed with the government that raising oil taxes made "good economic sense" because the Philippines had one of the lowest oil prices in the region, the government should also take note that the country was also one of the poorest in Asia.

"The government's need for revenues is pretty desperate but I think raising oil taxes now will be difficult and ill-timed because of the uncertainty over oil prices," Wallace said.

Smuggling

Slapping more taxes on petroleum products will just encourage smuggling, according to Consumer and Oil Price Watch chair Raul Concepcion.

At the current excise tax levels of P1.63 a liter for diesel, P4.35 a liter for unleaded gasoline and P4.80 for regular gasoline, smuggling was already very rampant he said.

"If you increase the taxes by P2, the price difference between gasoline and diesel will be so high that it will encourage smugglers to import gasoline and declare it as diesel," he said.

Instead of slapping more taxes, he said the government should first address inefficient collection. If, in the end, taxes collected would still fall short of government's requirements, then that would be the only appropriate time to hike these taxes, he said.

The Asian Institute of Management's Policy Center came out with a study in 2002, which showed that the government lost roughly P1.2 billion in revenues in 2001 due to diesel smuggling. This amount translated into around 300,000 liters of diesel obtained duty-free and sold each day at prices much lower than those offered by legitimate dealers.

On a monthly basis, this represented roughly 40 million liters sold all over Luzon and Mindanao.

Lost cause

Donald Dee, executive vice president of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said the government would be waging a "lost cause" if it pushed for an additional oil tax this year because it would face stiff resistance from lawmakers and consumer groups.

Dee said the more prudent thing for the government to do was to wait until oil prices stabilize.

He noted that the government had already shelved an executive order raising tariffs on oil products from 3 percent to 5 percent in view of surging oil prices.

In the House, Lapus said Congress was likely to quickly pass bills introducing performance targets for the Bureau of Internal Revenue, a long-delayed inflation indexation of "sin" taxes on alcohol and tobacco and a proposed tax amnesty.

But he said a plan to shift to a system called gross income taxation was likely to prove controversial as many people were not convinced that it would simplify collection and reduce opportunities for corruption.

It was still unclear whether the government would propose to abolish value-added tax or raise it by two percentage points, Lapus said. Officials have given conflicting signals on the issue.

"We have not received any proposed bills from the (Malacañang) Palace ... They are still being fleshed out," said Lapus, a former banker and official in several past governments.

The last Congress passed a record low number of laws and many lawmakers are grumbling that the government should first patch up the leaky tax collection system before imposing new taxes.

The Senate was likely to be the biggest obstacle to the President's plans, Lapus said. Several senators, some of whom face elections in 2007, have already spoken out against the reforms.

"It is the senators who are up for reelection who might convert this into a pro-people, anti-people sort of an issue," Lapus said.

Adding gas to fire

Senator Recto believed that "it's the wrong time to hike fuel tax" because pushing through with the tax proposal amid public cries for relief from high gasoline prices was tantamount to "adding gasoline to fire."

He pointed out that electricity prices would go up again should the government impose the additional tax on fuel.

"A P2 increase in the excise tax on fuel oil, which power plants use, would mean that an excise tax on that product would jump 666 percent, or from the present 30 centavos per liter to P2.30 per liter," he said.

He said the duty of the government was to temper, not aggravate, harsh oil price increases.

Sen. Edgardo Angara said there should be a careful study of the proposed tax "because imposing an excise tax of P2 on imported crude will translate to a very substantial amount in the pump price."

But Sen. Miriam Santiago said that raising the excise tax on oil was the "lesser evil" in finding an "immediate response to a looming fiscal crisis."

The country, she said, was faced with two options—to agree to an oil tax increase or to increase the value added tax in confronting the fiscal crisis. "It's better to increase oil tax because only the rich would suffer the burden," Santiago said.

If the VAT is increased, she said that the price of goods which are also bought by the poor would increase. "For me, it's a question of choosing between two evils," she added.

Santiago said that at least when the oil tax issue reached the committee on energy, which she is to chair, she could hopefully "discover means of dissuading petroleum companies not to pass on the tax to the ultimate consumers or if ever pass on the burden at the minimum to the consumers."

Francis Chua, executive vice president of the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said the President was better off looking for other industries to tax as the oil sector was "too intertwined" with the economy..

Despite the growing opposition, the administration is bent on pushing for a P2 per liter increase in oil tax.

"Our country needs to squarely address our budget deficit problem. Notwithstanding the projected increase in fuel prices due to this new tax measure, the Philippines will still have the lowest prices of petroleum products in the Asean region," Purisima said in a statement released in Malacañang.

In view of the inflationary impact of the higher excise tax on oil, Purisima said the government would structure the tax to make it "progressive" so that the impact on the majority of consumers would be mitigated.

He said that highly sensitive fuel products such as LPG should be exempted while diesel should be spared or have lower rates than gasoline. *With reports from Michael Lim Ubac, Martin P. Marfil and Reuters*

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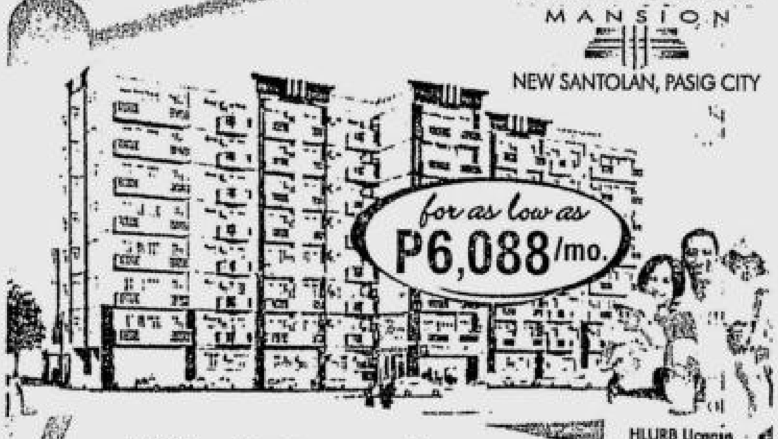

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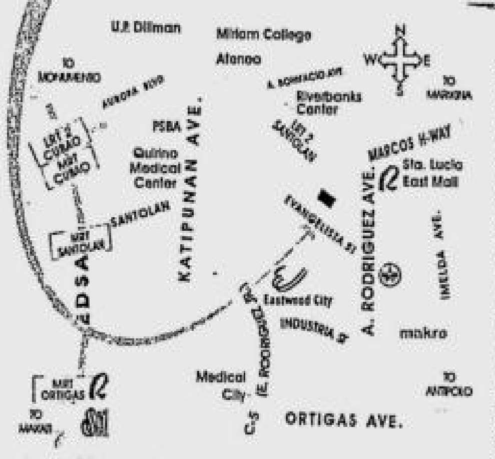

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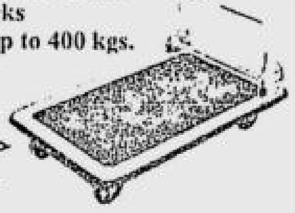

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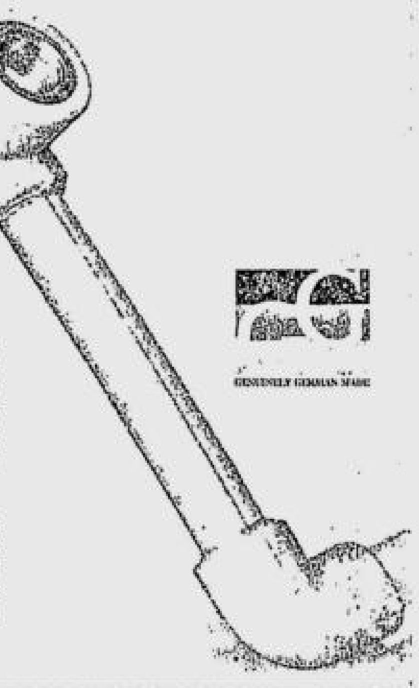

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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Leak in Japan nuke plant kills at least 4

TOKYO—A steam leak at a Japanese nuclear power plant killed four workers on Monday, hospital officials said, but authorities said no radiation escaped in the accident, the worst ever in terms of deaths at a Japanese nuclear facility.

Seven others were injured, some seriously, officials said.

The incident, which took place on the anniversary of the 1945 atomic bombing of the city of Nagasaki, is certain to increase public distrust of the nuclear industry in Japan, which depends on nuclear power for a third of its energy needs.

"Radioactive materials weren't contained in the steam that leaked out... We've received a report that there is no impact from radiation on the surrounding environment," an official at the Nuclear and Industrial Safety Agency told a news conference.

Police initially said five workers had died, but later corrected the figure to four.

The accident occurred in a building housing turbines for the Number 3 reactor at the Mihama nuclear plant in Fukui prefecture, 320 km west of Tokyo.

Television showed emergency workers in hard hats clustered around the exit of the facility.

An official at Kansai Electric Power Co. Inc., which runs the plant, said the 826,000-kilowatt nuclear generation unit at the facility shut down automatically when the steam leaked from the turbine, which is in a separate building. The company was unsure when it would restart.

"We are now investigating the cause," the official told a news conference. The temperature of the leaking steam was 142 Celsius.

He said the workers involved, who were preparing to shut down the plant for maintenance, were all contractors, and 221 people were in the building at the time.

A trade ministry spokesperson briefing reporters said there was no technical problem with the core nuclear reactor at the plant.

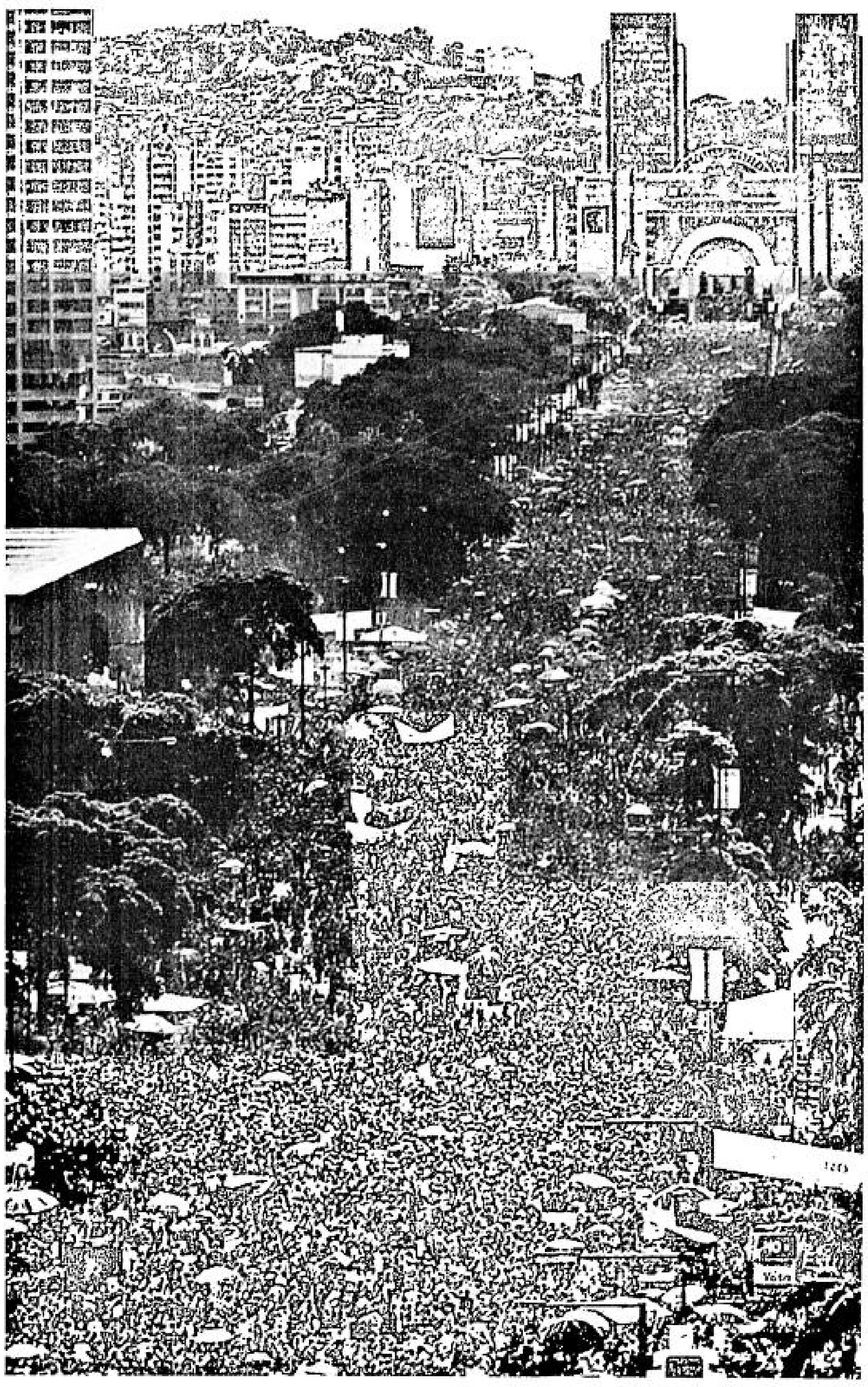
Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi said he had not heard details of the accident. "But I think we must do our best to investigate the cause, to prevent a repeat and to implement safety measures," he told reporters.

Chief cabinet secretary Hiroyuki Hosoda told a news conference: "I think the cause will become clear within several days."

The only previous fatal accident at a Japanese nuclear power plant was in 1967, in a fire at a plant in Ibaraki prefecture just north of Tokyo. There was no radiation leak.

The worst previous incident at a nuclear facility was at a uranium processing plant in Tokaimura, a town north of Tokyo.

That took place on Sept. 30, 1999, when an uncontrolled nuclear chain reaction was triggered after three poorly trained workers used buckets to mix nuclear fuel in a tub. *Reuters*



THRONGS of supporters of Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez rally in downtown Caracas Aug. 8 to express their favor for Chavez a week before the recall referendum on Aug. 15. AFP

HULA GIRLS

Keiki (children) hula dancers of Halau Hula 'O Hokulani of Waipahu, Hawaii, perform during the 64th Annual Na Hula Festival at the Kapiolani Park across from Waikiki Beach in Honolulu, Hawaii, Aug. 8. REUTERS

Ex-US darling Chalabi charged with murder

LONDON—The head of the tribunal trying Saddam Hussein said Monday his life would be in danger if he was arrested in Iraq on murder charges.

Salem Chalabi denied having anything to do with the June murder of Haithem Fadhil, director general of the finance ministry, and said Iraq's interim prime minister and president were working to resolve the issue.

"I was planning on returning to Baghdad but was threatened by being put in jail and indirectly word came to me that I would be killed there because of the fact that Iraqi jails are full of Baathists, and so I am trying to resolve this before returning," Chalabi, who is currently in London, told British Broadcasting Corp. radio.

Chalabi was asked if that meant he would not return to Iraq until he was confident he would not face arrest.

"I have not made my mind up. I plan on returning. I just want to get assurances that I will not get killed in a jail or something," he responded.

Britain's Foreign Office said Chalabi would not be extradited to Iraq.

"We don't have an extradition treaty with Iraq and we are not in a position to offer any help in matters like this," said a spokesperson, speaking on condition of anonymity. "There has also not been a request for our help from the Iraqi authorities."

Iraq issued arrest warrants on Saturday against Chalabi, who is at the helm of the war crimes tribunal for Saddam, and his uncle Ahmad Chalabi, who is accused of counterfeiting old Iraqi dinars.

Both men dismiss the charges as part of a political conspiracy against them and their family.

Chalabi said he was in the "middle of negotiations to try to work this out" and said Iraq's prime minister and president were "directly involved."

"They have both given assurances that this is something they will try to work out relatively quickly," he added.

"The charge supposedly is that I made a threat to this ministry of finance official who was investigating properties belonging to me," he told the BBC, adding that he had no properties in Iraq. "I have no recollection of ever meeting this person. I definitely have not visited him, as the allegation was, in his office."

Iraq's chief investigating judge Zuhair al-Maliky on Monday denied the charges were politically motivated. *AP*

Thousands march for Chavez

CARACAS—President Hugo Chavez on Sunday urged tens of thousands of supporters marching in the Venezuelan capital to prepare for a "final attack" against a crucial recall referendum coming up in a week to remove him from office.

Chavez supporters gathered on Bolivar Avenue in downtown Caracas, where the leftist president called on supporters to stay alert ahead of the Aug. 15 vote.

"We start today the final attack, a popular offensive from all directions, with much intelligence and without losing calm," Chavez told a throng of supporters.

"We will win, but we have not won yet," said Chavez, who was wearing a shirt in his trademark red color. "Careful with triumphalism. There are many days left. We cannot commit any mistakes in the seven days we have left."

The mass of supporters wore the president's red color, blew whistles and waved Venezuelan flags amid a festive atmosphere.

Freddy Bernal, the pro-Chavez mayor of Caracas' Libertador neighborhood, said 900,000 people took part in what was dubbed the "March for Victory."

But Fire Chief Rodolfo Briceno, who works under anti-Chavez Caracas Mayor Alfredo Pena, said: "Without a doubt, they are more than 100,000 and they arrived in 1,000 buses provided by the government."

The opposition held a rock and salsa concert Sunday as a counter-protest, with television stars who hosted the show urging people to vote "yes" and shouting "Chavez go away!"

The demonstration came as both Chavez and his opponents mounted massive door-to-door campaigns to try to win voters before the Aug. 15 referendum. Both camps expressed confidence Sunday they would win the recall vote.

Enrique Mendoza, a leader in the opposition's Democratic Coordinator (CD) coalition, predicted that Chavez will be recalled by "an ample majority."

The spokesperson for Chavez's campaign, Samuel Moncada, said the goal was to "obtain twice as many votes as the opposition... and to win in such overwhelming fashion that there would be no more doubts for the opposition, the international community and in particular for the government of Mr. George W. Bush."

Chavez has accused the United States of funding the campaign to unseat him.

The recall will ask Venezuelans whether Chavez should step down now, two years before his six-year term ends. Opinion polls suggest the race will be close and that many of the 14 million registered voters have yet to decide whether to vote "yes" or "no."

The latest surveys generally give an edge to Chavez, but some analysts have questioned the reliability of opinion polls in a country that has been rocked by sporadic political violence in recent years.

The opposition—a diverse group united mainly by their hatred of Chavez—has deployed 435,000 volunteers in its get-out-the-vote drive, spokesperson Jesus Torrealba said.

Chavez foes have closed ranks in recent months. The CD coalition remains an eclectic mix of political, business, labor, social and military groups with often divergent views.

Chavez, a former paratrooper who spent two years in prison for leading a failed military coup in 1992, has personally led his campaign to defeat the referendum. *AFP*

2 blasts in Pakistan school leave 8 dead

KARACHI—Two bombs exploded within minutes of each other in a western neighborhood of Karachi on Sunday, killing at least eight people and wounding more than 50, police and witnesses said.

The bombs were attached to two motorcycles parked outside a roadside restaurant—owned by a big religious school located next door to it, police said.

A police station is also located nearby, they said.

A bomb disposal squad defused a third bomb moments before it was to explode, Karachi Police Chief Tariq Jameel said.

"First there was a small explosion, which was followed by a bigger blast," he said.

Doctors and police said eight people were killed and more than 50 injured were taken to at least three state-run hospitals.

Most of the victims were students of an Islamic school, who frequented this restaurant.

Fayyaz Leghari, a deputy inspector general of police, called the bombing "an act of terrorism."

"The target was the general public and students. The aims was to create chaos," he said.

Parts of human flash, shreds of glass, smashed furniture and twisted pieces of damaged vehicles were scattered at the blood splattered site, witnesses said.

An official of the bomb disposal squad said all the three bombs were locally made weighing around one to 1.5 kg. *Reuters*

Nagasaki to US: Drop dependence on nuke arms

TOKYO—The mayor of Nagasaki urged the United States on Monday to help rid the world of nuclear weapons, 59 years to the day after a US plane dropped an atomic bomb over the Japanese city, effectively ending World War II.

The attack on the hilly port city on Kyushu island in southwest Japan killed 74,000 people and came just three days after the United States unleashed the world's first atomic bomb used in war on the city of Hiroshima.

The intense heat, shock waves and ensuing fires completely destroyed all structures for four kilometers along the city's heavily built-up Urakami Valley.

By the end of 1945, the number of dead from the initial blast plus those who succumbed to burns and radiation sickness was 74,000, or one third of the city's population, with another 75,000 injured.

The annual ceremony of commemoration began with a minute of silent prayer at 11:02 a.m., the exact time that the plutonium bomb was dropped above the city Aug. 9, 1945.

"So long as the world's leading superpower fails to change its posture of dependence on nuclear weapons, it is clear that the tide of nuclear proliferation cannot be stemmed," Iccho Ito said in his annual declaration to more than 5,000 people at the city's peace park.

"People of America: The path leading to the eventual survival of the human race unequivocally requires the elimination of nuclear arms. The time has come to join hands and embark upon this path," he said, speaking near the epicenter of the blast.

Standing at the foot of the Peace Statue—a bronze figure of a man pointing to the patch of sky from which the atomic bomb fell—Ito criticized Washington for continuing to possess 10,000 nuclear weapons.

He also criticized the United States for conducting subcritical nuclear tests, which contain the ingredients of a nuclear warhead but have no thermonuclear blast and in theory create no radioactive emissions.

"In addition, the so-called mini-nuclear weapons that are the subject of new development efforts are intended to deliver truly horrific levels of force," he noted, saying the radioactivity they would release would be no different to that from the bomb dropped on Nagasaki.

"The city's increasingly elderly atomic bomb survivors continue to suffer from the after-effects of the bombing as well as from health problems induced by the stress of their experience," he said.

"We call upon the citizens of the United States to look squarely at the reality of the tragedies that have unfolded in the wake of the atomic bombings 59 years ago."

Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi attended the ceremony and pledged to "make utmost efforts towards the abolition of nuclear weapons."

Masatoshi Tsunenari, who was 16 when the bomb was dropped, recalled the horror immediately after the blast.

"People with burns too horrible to look at and people in agony from severe injuries were desperately calling for help, he said.

On the anniversary of the Hiroshima bombing on Friday, city mayor Tadatoshi Akiba lashed out at the United States and accused it of having an "egocentric world view." *AFP*

DOVES fly over the Peace Statue during a memorial service for the 59th anniversary of the US atomic bombing in Nagasaki at the peace park in Nagasaki, Aug. 9. AFP

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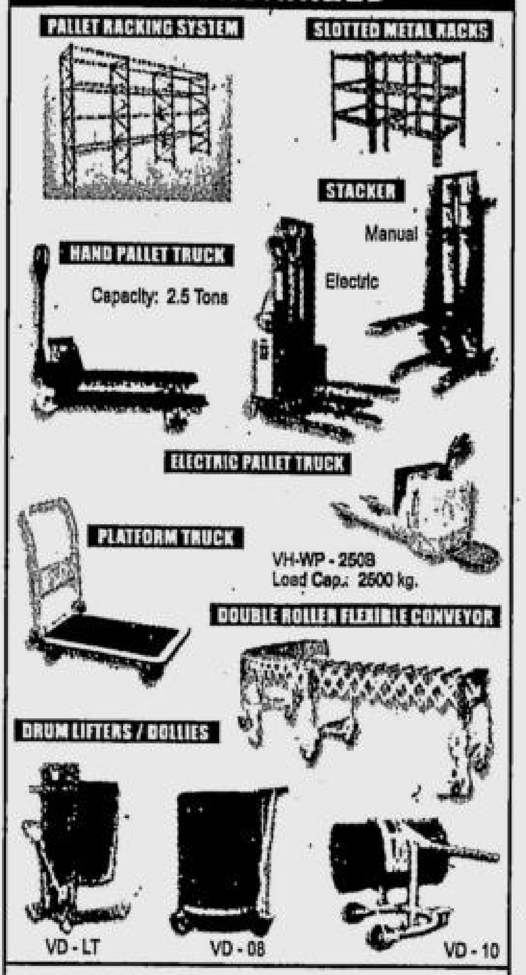

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Secretary, Dept. of Trade & Industry

Mr. Napoleon L. Nazareno
President/CEO, PLDT
"Philippines' Overall Best Managed Company" (Asia Money)

Luncheon Presentation: Delivering Cutting Edge Solutions to Corporate Customers
Mr. Ernesto R. Alberto
Senior Vice President
PLDT Corporate Business Group

Smarter Retailing
Engr. Marnie S. Tolosa
Solutions Manager
Microsoft Philippines

Branding Strategies for Retailers
Ms. Frances J. Yu
President, FJY Consulting

The Next Generation Store: Global Trends in Retailing
Mr. Daniel Hopping
Consulting Marketing Manager
IBM Corporation (USA)

Supercharging the Value Chain – e-Retailing Transformation Thru Technology
Mr. Ernesto Jose S. Bilar
Sr. Product Manager - Process Supply Chain Solutions
Oracle South Asia

If You Don't Measure It, You Can't Manage It: Retail Metrics That Matter
Mr. Bikash Kumar
Director, Integrated Retail Management Consulting (India)

DAY 2 **August 13, 2004**

The Philippine Retail Industry
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President, PRA

Winning Trends in Advertising & Promotions
Ms. Yolanda V. Ong
Group Chairperson
Campaigns & Grey

Strategic Financing for SMEs
Amb. Jesus P. Tambunting
Chairman
Planters Development Bank

The Battle for the Customer's Share of Life
Mr. J. Richard Soriano
Founder/President
BCD Pinpoint

Luncheon Presentation: There's Better Business in GlobeQUEST Store Express
Speaker c/o GlobeQUEST

Inspirational Talk
Mr. Rod Nepomuceno
Columnist
Philippine Star

Shopper Trends - Understanding Consumers' Shopping Habits NEW Topic
Mr. Peter Gale
Executive Director - Southeast Asia, ACNielsen

Practical & Cost Effective Market Research on a Budget
Dr. Eduardo Roberto
Professor, Coca-cola Foundation - Int'l Marketing
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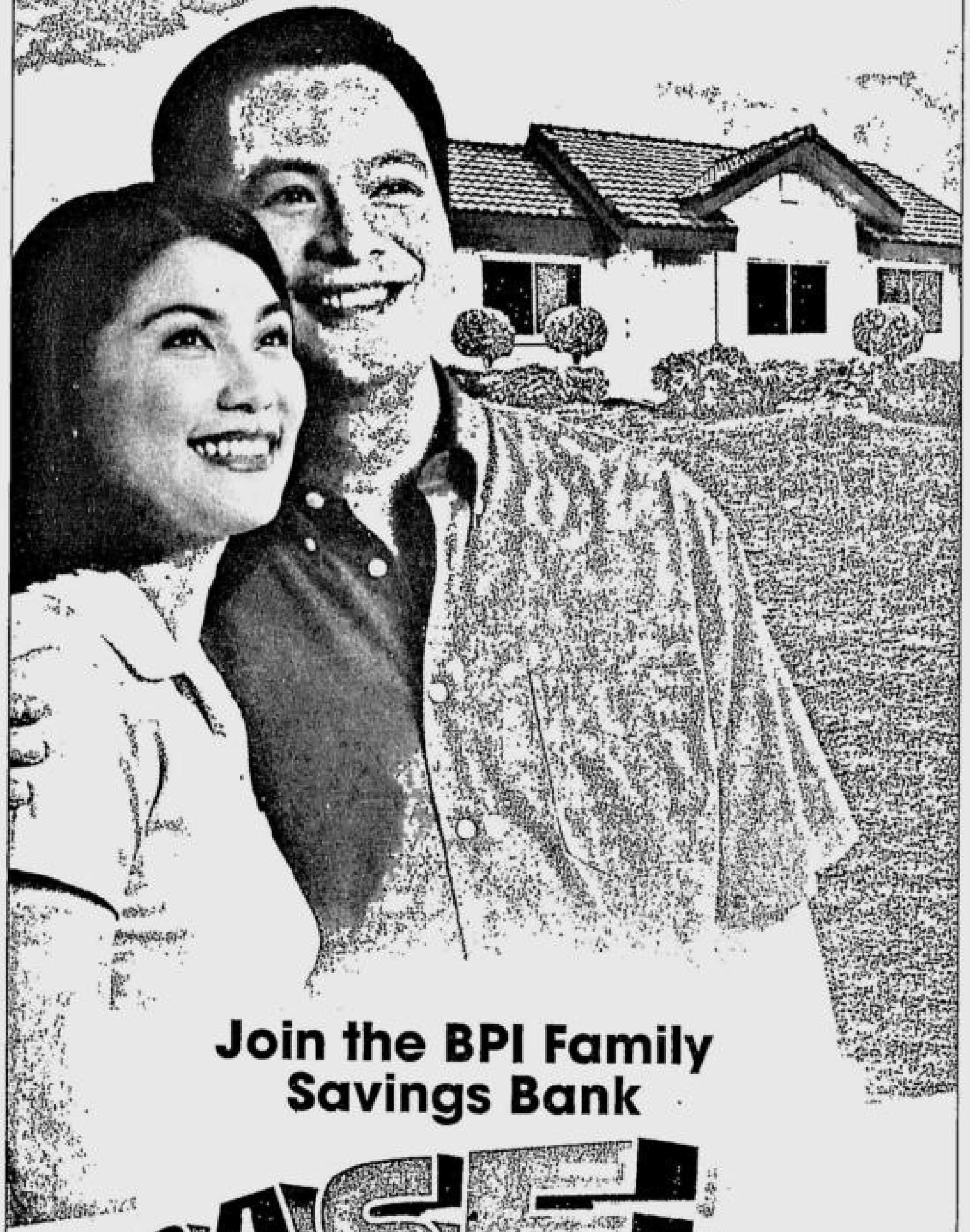

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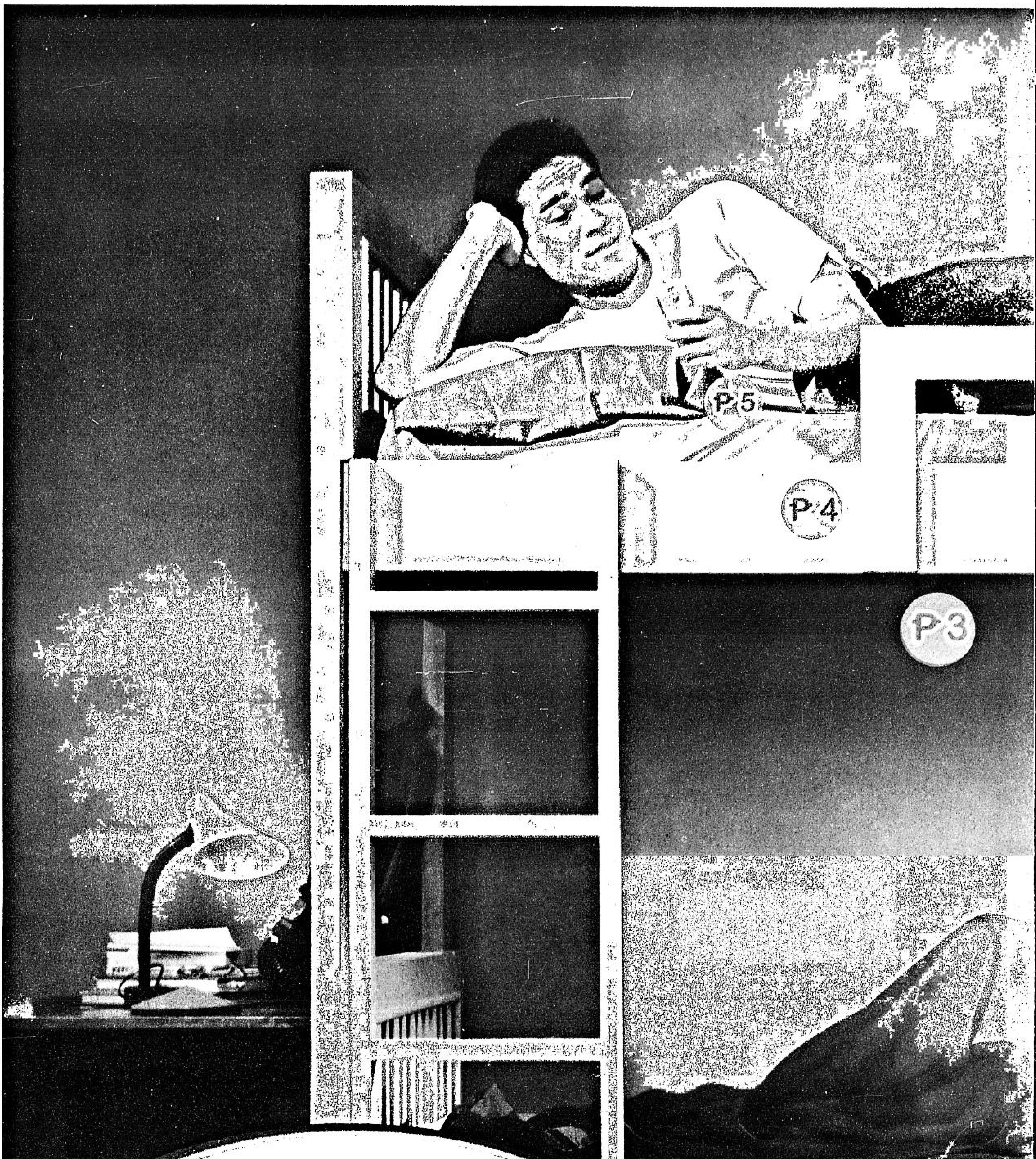

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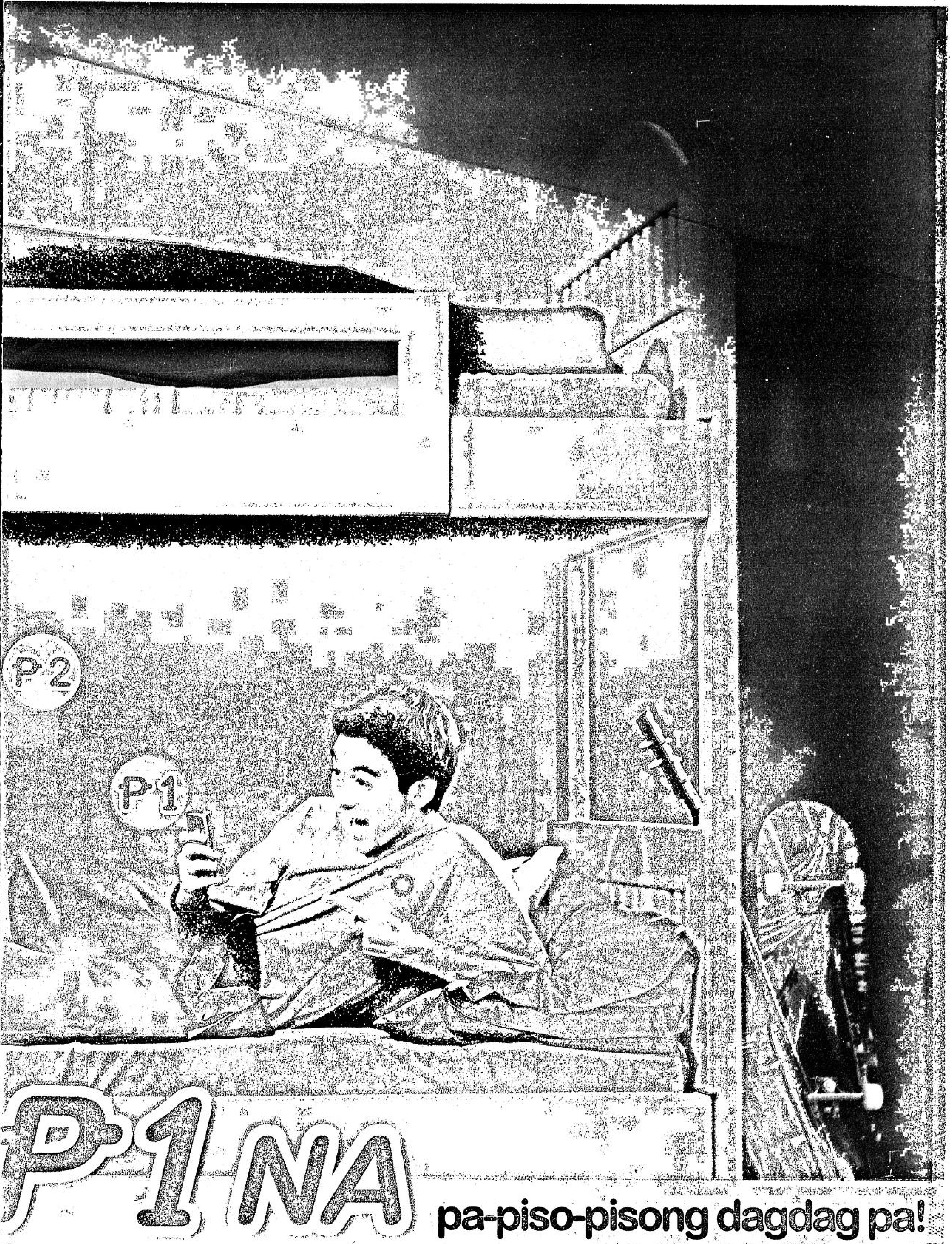

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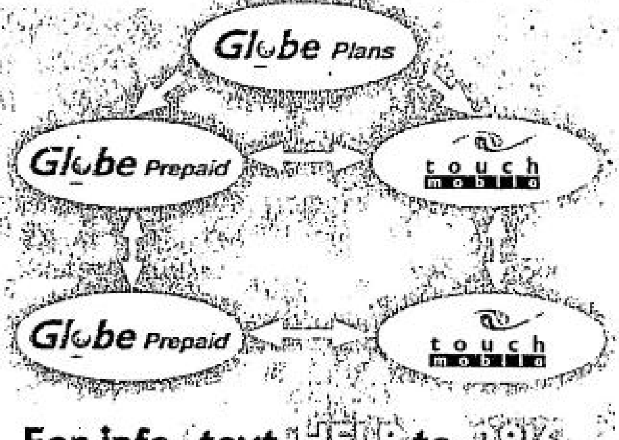

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ISSN 0116-2642
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
Vol. 19 No. 244

OPINION

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THE PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, INC. has its business and editorial offices at
•Chino Roces Ave corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City
•P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City
•Our telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments
•Editorial Fax 897-4793 / 897-4794 •Advertising 897-4807
•Circulation 527-3342 / 527-3348 / 528-0183 / 528-0186 and 528-0213 / Fax: 528-02-34.
•100% soy ink•

Publisher **ISAGANI YAMBOT**
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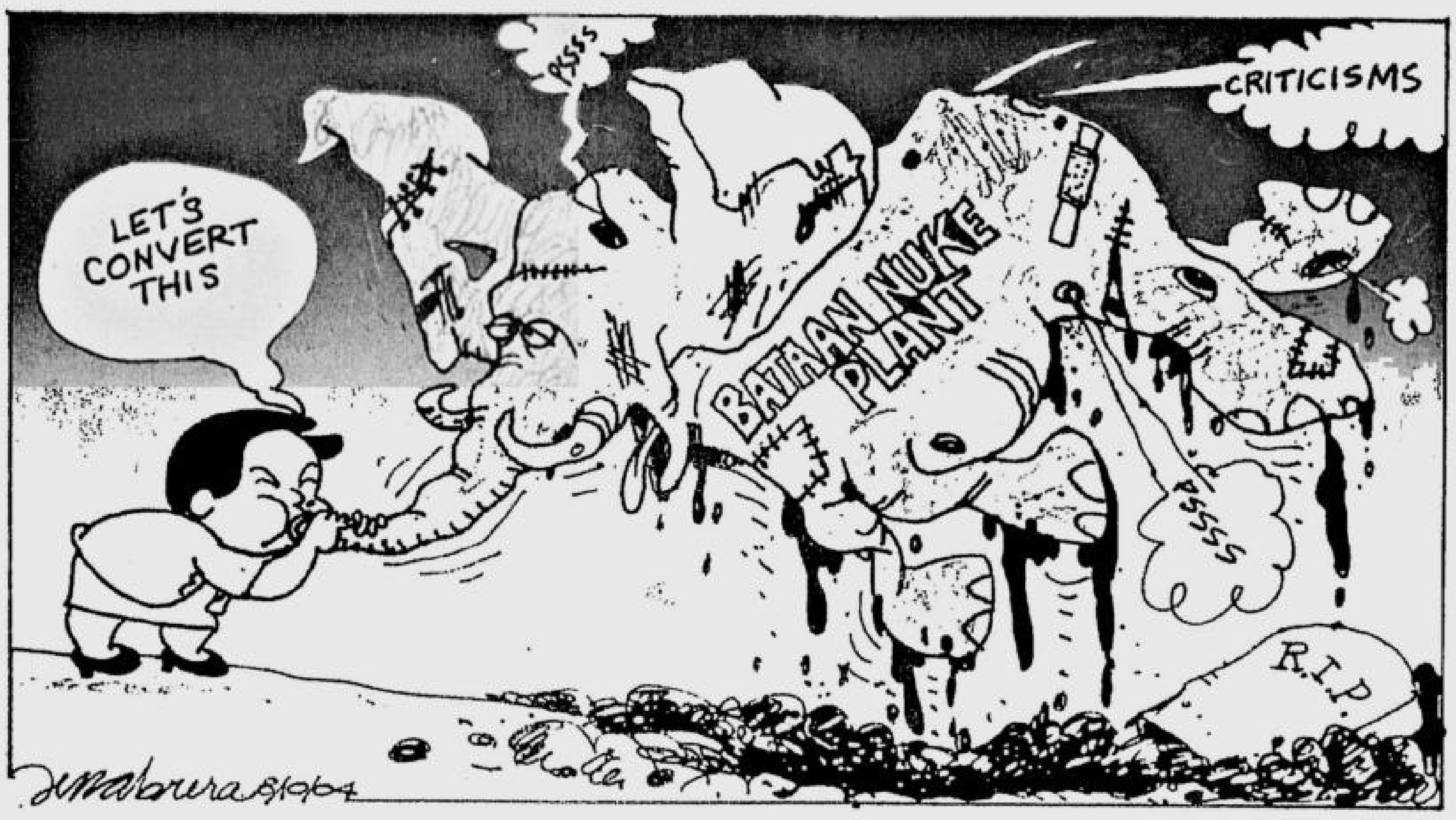

Attack on democracy

EDITORIAL

FIFTY-FOUR and counting. Fifty-four journalists have been killed in the Philippines since the restoration of press freedom in 1986. Most of the slayings are suspected to have been triggered by exposés made by the victims.

(Another list shows that a total of 77 journalists have been killed over the same period, but it does not say if all slayings were work-related.)

The killing of newsmen year after year has made the Philippines the most dangerous place for journalists in Asia, and the second most dangerous in the world, after Colombia. This year, five journalists have been killed over a period of seven months. Last year, seven newsmen were slain, for the biggest yearly total since 1986.

Most of the journalists killed had been reporting on corruption before they were assassinated. Rowell Endrinal, a reporter of radio station dzRC in Legazpi City, was shot dead on Feb. 11 by two gunmen outside his home. Endrinal was known for his exposés on corruption and criminal gangs.

Isabelo Maghoyo, a radio announcer of radio station dxID, was killed by an unidentified assassin on Feb. 23 as he was about to leave his house in Pagadian City in Zamboanga del Sur.

Eliseo "Ely" Binoya, a commentator for Radyo Natin, was killed by unidentified gunmen on June 17 outside the port city of General Santos in Cotabato. Local journalists said the murder possibly was tied to Binoya's radio commentaries.

Roger Mariano, a reporter for dzJC Radyo Aksyon in Laoag City in Ilocos Norte, was shot several times in the back and head by unidentified gunmen on July 3 as he headed home after leaving the station. Mariano's program, "Roger Mariano in Action," was known for its reports on corruption and *jueteng* operations and various criminal activities.

Arnel Manalo, a correspondent of the tabloid Bulgar and radio station dzRH, was shot in the face and neck by two unidentified men in Bauan, Batangas Aug. 5. His colleagues described him as a "straight" journalist who did not have to resort to any hanky-panky because he had a garment business and was financially stable.

The killings have been condemned by international and national organizations of journalists, among them the International Press Institute, Reporters without Borders, the Committee to Protect Journalists, the Philippine Press Institute and the Freedom Fund for Filipino Journalists.

President Macapagal-Arroyo has offered a reward of P1 million for information leading to the arrest of suspected killers of journalists, but so far no mastermind has been arrested.

A campaign launched by the Freedom Fund for Filipino Journalists last May 7, involving media organizations, has so far produced no results. The principal target of the campaign was the killer of Mindanao journalist Edgar Damalerio who had escaped from police custody. Up to now the killer has not been re-arrested and Damalerio's case remains unsolved.

Director General Hermogenes Ebdane has suggested arming journalists who are facing threats to their lives. Nandy Pacheco, who has been advocating a "gunless society" for the past 15 years, asked, "Why should we encourage people to meet gun violence with gun violence?" At any rate, unless journalists are skilled in handling guns, they may only harm themselves or other people. Many, many years ago, a journalist fired his gun in the National Press Club and succeeded only in hitting a wall and a window pane.

It might be better to provide police security to newsmen whose lives are threatened, but that would tie up a considerable number of law enforcers who should be engaged in the overall effort to curb criminality. Besides, where would the low-salaried journalists get the money to pay for the meals and other expenses of their security escorts?

The best way to stop the killing of journalists is to put an end to the climate of impunity that has encouraged attacks against newsmen. The police, the judiciary, journalists' organizations and the public in general have to work hand in hand to have the masterminds and the triggermen in the killings of journalists arrested, brought to trial and convicted as swiftly as possible.

The people may not realize it, but an attack on the press is ultimately an attack on society in general. The use of the gun to silence the press is an attack on democracy that flourishes best in a climate where there is freedom of speech and freedom of the press. Press freedom cannot thrive in a climate of fear, intimidation and constant threat of physical danger or even death.

Fellow travelers to the grave

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

"YOUR friend died Sunday night," the beggar called out to the wife as we walked by.

"Friend" was a pauper, with whom the "missus" shared some rice, medicine, tins of food, spare blouses and, now and then, a few pesos. Now, she was gone. "We didn't even get her name," she regretted.

Like Lazarus at the rich man's gate, the woman blended into the woodwork: haggard, ill-clothed, diffident and sun-burnt from squatting in the sun, with palm outstretched.

"We do not see the poor," the INQUIRER's Conrad de Quiros wrote. In them, technicians perceive aggregates; politicians, votes; businessmen, markets; and rebels, cannon fodder.

Yet, we bump into our pauper-friends all over. They gather at jeepney stops, markets and churchyards—wherever the "better off" hurry by.

Out of every hundred Filipinos, 46 must get by on just a fraction of P100 daily, notes the Human Development Report 2004. Nine Malaysians find themselves below poverty lines, so do 34 Thais.

Whip out the statistics that the richer 20 percent of our people consume 52 centavos out of every peso. Our beggars will nod. But their minds do not still the aches that scream in their bodies. "It's not possible to satisfy hunger by painting rice cakes," the Chinese say.

Here, the poorest 20 percent must make do with five centavos out of every peso—crumbs from the rich man's daily lauriat that Lazarus reached for. This is obscene.

Imee Marcos' diamond chokers or Erap's multi-million-peso mahjong *balatos* make them more so. That goes for Internal Revenue and Customs digging in against reform. All savage the poor.

Studies like the annual HDRs help strip away our blinders. "To a blind man, a pebble and a diamond are alike," a Spanish proverb says. Reality is the first step to correcting our cross-eyed vision.

HDR reports track the progress—or the backsliding—of countries. Its innovative indicators go beyond traditional yardsticks, like gross national product. They assess "quality of life" in an international setting.

In human development, HDR 2004 brackets us between Armenia, a Maryland-size state besides Turkey, on one end, and the minuscule Maldives Islands, in the Indian Ocean, on the other.

Of 177 countries studied, the Philippines ranked 83rd. Australians enjoy the best quality of life. The Danes were number 17.

Among Asean member-countries, Singapore ranks number 25th, HDR notes, Malaysia 59th, and Indonesia 111th. The worst ranked is Africa's Niger and Sierra Leone.

"Life is the threshold at which all other hopes begin." A life of 52 years in Tawi-Tawi can be brutally cut short as in Eritrea. But overall, Filipinos today can hope to live to 69.8 years, almost at par with the Vietnamese. That's a decade more than the average lifespan in Asean countries like Cambodia and Burma.

But it's 78 for Greeks and Singaporeans—a year longer than the 77 for Americans. For Japanese, it's almost 82.

"As a priest, one of my sadder tasks is to bless the bodies of far too many babies" a friend said over coffee. Rough-hewn tiny coffins, shouldered by relatives on country roads, are so common, they pass almost unnoticed, he added.

Nonetheless, infant mortality here has dropped: from 60 percent in 1970 to about 29 today. That's a vast improvement. But far more can be done. Infant deaths are down to four percent in Singapore, 17 in Sri Lanka.

TB incidence among Norwegians, Swedes and Danes is below five for every 100,000 of their populations. It is 540 for Filipinos and 179 for Thais. Undernourishment is zero in Nordic countries. It is 22 for every 100 Filipinos and seven in Burma.

One of the newer HDR indicators is "Yeat's yardstick" or "Probability At Birth of Surviving To Age 65." This refers to the poet William Butler Yeats' writing on a loved one's early death: "We dreamed that he'd live to comb grey hair."

Seven out of 10 Filipinas born today will probably see grey hair. It is six for us males. But it is nine for Canadian, French and Norwegian women, and–as among Filipinos–a year shorter for the men.

"Three basic decisions underpin Nordic success," explains Jeffrey Sachs of Columbia University's Earth Institute. "First, it prioritized education, study and science. Second, it decided it would leave no countryman behind. Social insurance—pensions, health care, education—became a shared commitment. And third, it built a vigorous private sector.

President Macapagal-Arroyo balked at reforms like the one-year "bridge program" to help flunkers. Four tests show over 700,000 of the 1.4 million graduates "know only 27 percent of what they were supposed to learn in elementary school," the Council of Private Educational Associations has notes.

Basic education here is 10 years. Most other countries insist on 13 years. "Even Burma, Laos and Cambodia support 11 years."

In social services, take just one item: water. About 36 percent of water flowing out of taps in cities is contaminated.

Government red-tape hobble starting firms, causing a delay of at least 40 days, the World Bank notes. In Australia, the same process is completed in two days. In competitiveness, the Philippines ranked 48th, out of 75 countries studied by the World Economic Forum.

The poor, like our departed beggar-friend, "are not another race of creatures bound on other journeys," "Christmas Carol" author Charles Dickens writes. "They are fellow-travelers to the grave."

(E-mail: juan_mercado@pacific.net.ph)

Still, families

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I REMEMBER attending an occasion last year where one very rich woman was talking fretfully about runaway population over a sumptuous lunch. Frankly, she said, she could not understand why people wanted to have such huge families, or indeed, why any woman would allow herself to become a children factory. Particularly the poor, she said, who obviously did not have the means to feed a couple of children or send them to school, let alone a dozen of them. It defied common sense altogether. It was insane.

Frankly, too, she added, she would not mind the vote being limited only to citizens who could read and write and had finished at least elementary school. Though if you asked her, she said, better if the bar were raised to high school. People who acted so obviously irrationally—who littered the world with unwanted mouths to feed and who fell for the allures of movie stars turned candidates—had no business voting. Voting presumed intelligence, it should be left to the intelligent.

Thankfully, another woman replied that she'd be surprised how far more idiotically the rich and middle class often voted. I agreed, and said the persons who kept trying to persuade me to go for Erap in 1998 were by no means the laundry woman who came to our house twice a week or the neighborhood mechanic who "*tsked-tsked*" about the state of my 11-year-old car twice a year; they were lawyers and businessmen and academics with a lot of letters after their names. The only thing worse than ignorance fomenting stupidity is brain power justifying it.

As to the irate woman's views on population control, I refrained from saying that Jonathan Swift offered in his essay, "A Modest Proposal," a more direct and effective solution to the problem of overpopulation than preventing the poor from voting. That was turning unwanted babies into food. The last time I mentioned this, I got brickbats from some readers violently protesting the idea, so I will hasten to add that Swift meant it completely satirically (I've found out that in this country you have to make these things explicit as people tend to take things literally.) Swift made a very good case for the economic and nutritive merits of his proposal. The only reason I did not mention it in the gathering was that we were eating—meat.

Why do the poor breed like rabbits when they have the economic mobility of turtles? The one book that helped me gain an insight into the relativity of what we presume to be rational was James Scott's "The Moral Economy of the Peasant." Scott argues that there is method in the madness of peasants clinging to traditional methods of agriculture despite the demonstrable gainful superiority of more modern ones.

He writes: "Many of the seeming anomalies of peasant economics arise from the fact that the struggle for a subsistence minimum is carried out in the context of shortage of land, capital and outside employment opportunities. This restricted context has sometimes driven peasants… to choices that defy standard bookkeeping measures of profitability. Peasant families… will work unimaginably hard and long for the smallest increments in production long after a prudent capitalist would move on. That the marginal return on his additional labor is minuscule matters little to (him) who must wring the family's food out of what he has."

The same principle applies to the poor's compulsion to breed babies. Outside looking in, it is truly insane—certainly, it wreaks havoc on society—but from where the poor stand, it makes perfect sense. Having a dozen children assures several things. It assures that when three or four children die, from disease or accident—that is reckoned near-scientifically, even if it is not expressed in arithmetical percentages—eight or nine are left. That in turn assures that at least one will succeed, probably a male, the most likely to succeed being chosen for schooling (elementary), who might bag work in Saudi. That in turn assures someone will see the other siblings through and the parents will not be left alone and helpless in old age.

Coupled with finding the appropriate godparents from better-off families, who will hopefully enlarge the scope of the family's resources, Leo or Ed will feel confident he has a crack at life. Not all of this is explicitly articulated. More often it is merely expressed as, "It is *masaya*, or comforting, to have a big family." But a desperate quest for security lies at the bottom of it. Doubtless it is a false one, but tell that to someone who has no security, false or real.

Unless we look at the problem at this level, I don't see how we will get far in curbing runaway population growth. There are limits to legislation—look at the protests that erupted over Rep. Ace Barbers' proposal for a five-year moratorium on childbirth. China, of course, has been successful in implementing a one-child policy, but that is because it can threaten families with withdrawing state subsidies for the second child. What can you threaten Filipino families with? They have no benefits to begin with.

Making contraceptives available (and free: they are not, at present) and mounting a massive information drive may help, but only to a point. The long-term solution can only lie in two things, which are universal education and uplifting the plight of the poor. The last inescapably calls for a better distribution of the wealth of society, or more to the point, a less spectacular divide between a tiny and horrendously privileged few and a teeming and even more horrendously deprived (and depraved) many. Which is the most glaring feature of our society. Talk of rationalities, what is so very rational about that?

That's what defies common sense altogether. That's what's absolutely insane.

Looking for alternative sources of energy

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

A SIDEWALK philosopher—listening to the debate, triggered by Sen. Joker Arroyo, on what to do with the three-decade-old white elephant that's the Bataan Nuclear Power Plant–opined that since President Ferdinand Marcos' widow, Imelda, has been looking for a permanent burial place for him, she might consider asking the state to allow his entombment in the BNPP. After all, he said, the "Monster of Morong" is Marcos' lasting "legacy" to the people. Until now we are paying $155,000 a day for the loan used to build it, and this we are obliged to do so in the next four years.

* * *

The world is falling deeper into a worsening oil crisis fueled by, among others, the continuing terrorism in the Middle East that has affected the capacity of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries to increase crude production; the winter stockpiling of oil supply by temperate countries; the increasing demand from industrializing Asian nations led by China and India; and the tax problems of Yukos Oil, a giant Russian oil producer. Understandably, our thoughts turn to alternative sources of energy. Right now we're 52 percent dependent on local energy sources. The government hopes to bring it up to 60 percent by 2010. But the problem is that our demand for imported oil, which is necessary to run our factories, ships and motor vehicles, including the *masa's* tricycles, is still about 350,000 barrels of oil a day.

* * *

Last Sunday evening, Cecile Alvarez and I invited to our dzRH program former energy undersecretary Rufino Bomasang, president of PNOC-Exploration Corp., to talk about alternative sources of energy. Bomasang, the most successful member of the Kankana-ey tribe in the Cordillera region, is in the best position to speak about our energy situation. He has served five administrations, from Marcos to the present, and the firm he heads is directly involved in the Malampaya project. He admits that the energy crunch of the '70s underscored the fact that the Philippines was 92 percent dependent on imported energy. This gave impetus to the development of indigenous oil resources. By 1984, the Philippines was the second largest user of geothermal energy. But unfortunately, *"nag-relax tayo."* Then came the political turmoil of the mid-'80s, triggered by Ninoy Aquino's assasination, that caused major oil companies to leave the country.

* * *

For Bomasang, the Malampaya project—in which the government owns a 10-percent share (the other 90 percent is divided between Shell and Chevron-Texaco)—is a fabulous asset. Its three trillion cubic feet of natural gas is equivalent to about 600 million barrels of oil. He said that since October 1998, Malampaya has generated 25 percent of Luzon's power needs. Still, the resource remains underutilized, owing partly to the failure to fast-track the transmission lines from Batangas to Manila. Bomasang pointed out that compressed natural gas (CNG) can be used as substitute fuel for motor vehicles, which in this country are still operated on imported fossil fuels. But CNG still has to be made commercially available here, unlike in Bangkok where CNG filling stations can already be found all over the city. Our government plans to put up facilities for CNG-fueled buses by 2007 or 2008.

* * *

As to alternative and renewable energy sources, Bomasang cited the geothermal reserves in the Visayas; the development of wind power in Ilocos Norte and along the ridges of Cordillera; the hydroelectric power in the Cordillera; solar energy in various remote "missionary" areas; the biomass energy project in Payatas with the Quezon City government, which will generate energy from solid wastes; and the development of coco-diesel and alcogas for commercial purposes. And yes, says Bomasang, there's the challenge to find "another Malampaya"—*"Makakita lang tayo ng isa pang* Malampaya, *ayos na tayo."*

* * *

Easily the most unusual eulogy at the necrological services for the late Vice President Arturo Tolentino came from former Senate President Jovito Salonga. It was in the form of a "Ka Turing" letter that recalled the glory days when giant minds "could disagree without being disagreeable, or differ without being difficult." The paths of these two legal luminaries, both from Rizal but separated by a 10-year age difference, had crossed so often since their teaching days at the Philippine Law School and the Far Eastern University Institute of Law; and subsequently in the political and legal arena. Paying tribute to Tolentino's legal prowess, Salonga noted how generations of justices, lawyers and law students "cannot pore over your five-volume commentaries on the Civil Code without concluding that here is a civil law jurist who did not merely compile the decisions and comments of Spanish authorities" but who went further by explaining "the reason for the law and why some decisions were in error."

* * *

Salonga understandably couldn't resist alluding in passing to Tolentino's being "an incurable romantic in your younger days" (the latter's charm with the ladies was legend). But more gripping was his recollection of their courtroom battles and the historical events that pitted them on opposite political fences. A notable case was when Ka Jovy defended the late Rep. Jorge Abad, father of Liberal Paty president Butch Abad against Rufino Antonio, whose Suzuki Boys imposed a reign of terror in Batanes during the 1969 elections, deemed by Newsweek and Time magazines as the "dirtiest" and the "most corrupt elections." Tolentino was Antonio's lawyer. Salonga recalled that the case was assigned to Justice Claudio Teehankee who was "obviously in (Tolentino's) favor; but his Supreme Court colleagues went against him, with Justice JBL Reyes penning the majority decision in favor of Abad, supported by Chief Justice Roberto Concepcion and Justices Arsenio Dizon, Calixto Zaldivar and Querubin Makalintal (*To be continued*).

Ignore it

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

WHAT must good Catholics do in response to the recent "Letter to the Bishops of the Catholic Church on the Collaboration of Men and Women in the Church and in the World"? "Just ignore it," says Sr. Mary John Mananzan, Benedictine nun, educator and feminist leader. "It is not an encyclical and was not issued *ex cathedra* (meaning, as a matter of faith)." So, is it just a scholarly and academic document? I asked her the question when she guested on the radio show "XYZone" last Saturday. "I wouldn't even consider it scholarly, since it was written (by Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, described by some as "the Vatican's orthodoxy watchdog") apparently without even consulting the people most affected by it—women, not even the women of the Church," she replied.

The letter, published in pamphlet form, has been described by news media the world over as an "attack" on, if not "denunciation" of, feminism for "trying to blur differences between men and women and threatening the institution of families."

"This just shows that he doesn't know the real meaning of feminism," said Sr. Mary John of Cardinal Ratzinger, and perhaps of the Pope himself. She herself subscribes to a "simple" definition of a feminist, which is someone, a man or a woman, "who recognizes the problem of gender-based discrimination, subordination and oppression and is willing to work towards transforming the structures that promote and reinforce these problems."

Only a fool would not recognize the social ills bred by the inequalities between men and women, asserts Sr. Mary John, who mentions among others, all forms of violence against women, including rape and incestuous rape, domestic violence, sexual harassment and the trafficking of women and children. By condemning feminism, is the Vatican then saying it is wrong to believe it is possible for humanity to live without such social malignancies; that, like the poor, they will always be with us?

* * *

"USE THE 'F' word with me, I don't mind," writes Carolina Ruiz-Austria, executive director of WomenLead Foundation, a feminist legal assistance and advocacy organization.

The simple truth "staring many of us willing (and yes, flattered) to be called feminist in the face (is): feminism is still getting a bad rap to this very day..." writes Ruiz-Austria. "Most of the things said about feminism and feminists revolve around the basics... feminists are lesbians, pro-abortion and anti-family.

"Yes, many feminists are lesbians. But many lesbians are also not feminist, nor would they like to be considered such.

"Many feminists are heterosexuals, bisexuals, celibate, single, and yes, happily married.

"Many feminists are also mothers; many are not mothers but are the doting guardians of nephews, nieces, adopted children. Many feminists are happily childless aunts and sisters.

"Abortion rights and choice is indeed central to many feminists' political positions. The varying view of feminists on this issue as well as (on) others is also notable.

"But certainly a common feminist point of view is the starting point of analysis: women's subordination and the devaluation of their person usually manifested through the control of women's bodies."

* * *

AND in the Philippines, writes Ana Leah Sarabia, feminists bring with them "the legacy of hundreds, no thousands, of women in this country who had called themselves feminist since 1905."

Next year, in fact, the country observes 100 Years of Feminism, a movement that began on June 30, 1905 when women from prominent families in Manila and Luzon founded the "Asociacion Feminista Filipina." Among the founding mothers: Concepcion Felix, Trinidad Rizal (older sister of the national hero), Librada Avelino, Maria Paz Guazon, Maria Francisco, the Almeda sisters and Luisa de Silyar. As an expression of their feminist beliefs, the women founded some months later the "first-ever non-religious, non-government social welfare initiative in the country, Gota de Leche, which today could pass as the oldest Philippine NGO. The following year, Pura Villanueva (later Kalaw) and her friends founded the Asociacion Feminista Ilonga, choosing as their particular advocacy the right of Filipino women to vote.

So if feminism or the feminist movement is to be blamed for anything in this country, then it should be "blamed" for winning the right of suffrage for women, though even that right, taken for granted today, took more than 30 years of struggle to win.

* * *

WHICH just goes to show that without women fighting for their rights and for their just share of power, they would today—in most parts of the world—still be relegated to second-class citizens, which they still are, by the way, in the Church.

"It is ironic that in denouncing feminism, the Vatican has actually emphasized the accomplishments of feminism thus far, and how the feminists' quest for equity and equal rights for all has threatened the rule of the patriarchs. But we expected nothing different from the Vatican, much-vaunted seat of all-male supremacy," notes Sarabia.

One thing I noticed after reading the document was that, while it was supposed to touch on "the collaboration of men and women in the Church and in the world," it said hardly anything about the role men have played in the oppression and exploitation of women. One would have wanted to read something about men's responsibility for incest, rape or domestic violence, for instance.

The biggest irony about the "letter to Catholic bishops" is that it was purportedly prepared to start a process of dialogue between the Church and women. But the effect of its harsh, simplistic and paternalistic understanding of women's issues has been to simply close the door to all conversation—that is, until someone better prepared to listen issues another invitation.

Supreme adventure

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

ASIDE from the fact that there is little profit in a career of research and scholarship in this country, there is little encouragement from government for researchers to study the records and documents in foreign archives, which have bearing on the Philippines. One country with such archives is Mexico.

Although every departing galleon, upon its departure, supposedly left a copy of the ship's manifest in Manila, there is hardly a handful of information about this .lucrative trade that can be found at our national archives. For that, the scholar would have to travel to Acapulco or Spain. Of course, there's that other little problem of language to consider. Considering the relationship between the Philippines and Mexico, which for two hundred and fifty years, it is a pity that there is little or no interest.

Take for instance the inventory of merchandise. From our end we have no documents to show what goods these were. Trafficking in jewelry was illegal, but the artifacts salvaged from the ship "Ntra Sra de la Concepcion" (1638), which sank off the island of Saipan, show the ban was obviously ignored. "Chains, pendants and other jewelry in gold and silver; some with diamonds, emeralds, rubies and other precious stones strung together were found...as were silver table services and boxes, combs and gold filigree crucifixes." A 1719 inventory lists the following: "245 *Taez* of worked gold in a *cadena de resplandor*...226 *Taez* and eight *reales* in *bejuquillos*, 14 *Taez* and two *reales* in rosaries, three *Taez* and a real in *gamay* (sic), which in total are 495 *Taez* and two *reales*. Another bill of lading printed on Chinese paper describes a bundle containing 294 *Taez* of gold in different pieces and 7,635 pesos in different (sets) of diamonds."

The journey was no picnic and far removed from present day cruises. People died in droves. On a journey that could last up to six months, sometimes, over 40 corpses would be tossed overboard. "Eighty people died in the journey of 1606, while one hundred fourteen died in the journey of 1643. The first galleon named San Jose (there were several) took more than a year to reach Acapulco, despite the scheduled sighting of the ship in San Blas. The ship was lost after setting off for Acapulco and later discovered off the coast of Oaxaca, the entire crew had died of starvation." A certain Fr. Pedro Cubero Sebastian boarded the galleon San Antonio de Padua in 1678 and is quoted as observing that three or four dead bodies were tossed overboard daily, killed by dysentery. In less than two weeks 92 passengers died. Of 400 people only 192 arrived. Aside from disease, there were typhoons, pirates and plain overloading, allposing constant danger to both vessel and her passengers.

If the mortality rate was so high, why did people keep investing and the government keep encouraging the trade? Money, of course. In the beginning investors could earn as much as 150% in gold and even up to 200%. The captain paid between 600 and 10,000 pesos to the governor general for the permit to transport the cargo, but each passenger paid 100 thousand to 150 thousand pesos. The fees were easily recovered.

Considering that the trade lasted 250 years, it wasn't such a bad record that only 30 ships or so were lost during the two and a half centuries: four fell into hands of the English; one was burned at sea, causing the death of all crew and passengers. Another, the Santa Margarita ran aground off the Guam and it took two years before 16 of the original 200 passengers were rescued.

The ships (famous for their sturdiness that they were called "sea castles) were usually built and loaded in Cavite. They would cast anchor opposite Intramuros "where a procession carrying the Virgen de la Paz and del Buen Viaje (the Virgin of the Galleons) celebrated sail-off of the ship. The archbishop blessed the galleon and the crew, while the bells from all the churches in the city chimed and the governor gave the order to set sail."

In the 17th century the cost of construction was a little over 30,000 pesos. By 1762, the galleon El Filipino was valued at 95,857 pesos. Santisima Trinidad cost over 191,000 pesos. The ships were rarely equipped with artillery since they were essentially cargo vessels. When the Santisima Trinidad was attacked by Samuel Cornish, only 10 of her 60 cannons were functioning. The rest were obstructed by merchandise.

Today it is said that 60 to 70 percent of all goods sold in American department stores are from China. Here is a description of the goods that were loaded into the Manila galleon 200 years ago: "finely worked weavings, the cloth, suits and dresses made of silk; the white clothing and cotton threads and the raw fiber; the damasks, different types and thickness of silk cloth including embroidered, painted or finely worked silk, the muslins, the ladies' stockings, and the wraps or richly worked shawls, stood out for their exceptional quality. Tea, cinnamon, cloves, saffron, nutmeg and pepper were among the most desired spices. Magnificent porcelains, vases and table services ...with their beautiful shades of carmine, pink and green...Tortoise shell objects, ivory statues and complicated filigree, figures of jade in different shades of green, rose and lilac, *mancerinas* (saucers with a holder for a chocolate cup), fans, plates, boxes and other metal utensils enameled by fire; bamboo objects; ebony and ivory chess sets; lacquers, dark bronzes, screens, and furniture in fine wood with mother-of-pearl-inlay were also sent." It makes you think that what comes around goes around.

(*Miguel Angel Fernandez, "The China Galleon.*)

Bird watching

I HAVE taken up bird watching as a hobby for about a year now. What I have learned about birds and continue to learn about them are just remarkable. Birds come in all sorts and sizes, from small, metallically colorful sunbirds to the majestic eagles.

Some are excellent singers, rendering some of the sweetest tunes in nature, while others are such characters, exhibiting some of the most interesting behaviors known to nature. Of all their characteristics, I think what is most fascinating about birds is their ability of flight, and the seeming effortlessness with which they travel.

To travel long distances, humans have invented the aircraft, but the birds' morphological features—like their feathers, lightweight skeleton, and a highly efficient circulatory and respiratory systems, among others—have enabled them to transcend geographical boundaries with ease.

YOUNG BLOOD

Mark Villa

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

Not surprisingly, they have used these features to their advantage. Every year, across the world, people witness the incredible phenomenon of bird migration. In preparation for the cold weather, when food, such as insects, become scarce, birds across the northern hemisphere stock up and migrate, traveling thousands of miles to reach their winter homes in the tropics.

As I learned last year, birds, from as far north as Siberia and northern China, winter in the Philippines. As early as August, the birds begin to arrive, and one of their favorite sites is the Tambo Mud Flats.

Situated along Macapagal Boulevard in Tambo, Parañaque, the Tambo Mud Flats was one of my first birding sites. I got wind of the place through the Wild Bird Club of the Philippines (WBCP), a group of nature and bird enthusiasts that regularly monitors the birds there.

Every day, people drive by the boulevard in their cars, without knowing that just beside the road is a haven where birds take refuge. The Tambo site is an expanse of tall grasses and shrubs about the size of two football fields. Upon reaching the place, we can immediately hear the call of its resident grass birds and cisticolas. As we walk through the foot trails, dozens of munias flit by, as if to greet us. Complementing the grasslands are dense bushes, thick vegetation, mangrove plants and narrow stretches of estuarine canals that double as mud flats when the tide is low. The mud flats provide the water birds a habitat and feeding area.

In less than a year, our group has recorded over 80 bird species, more than forty of which are migratory. There are white terns flying low over the water; small plovers and sandpipers running about the mud, hundreds of which could sometimes be seen flying simultaneously as if doing a choreographed dance. Aptly named rubythroats hop on the ground like stout sparrows, while bright blue-green and orange kingfishers dive to the water. Occasionally too, we see rare birds—like the common ringed-plover, which despite its name, has only been sighted in the country twice; or the Chinese Egret, an endangered species, with only a few thousands of its kind remaining in the world.

To call the "Tambo" a haven is to call a squatter's house a mansion. Tambo does not resemble a park where people can stroll leisurely and enjoy a Sunday afternoon. Colored plastic bags float on the canal, garbage litters the mud flats; and the water in the canals is almost black so that one wonders there are fish at all. But the presence of tall, white egrets and stocky, yellow bitterns indicate that there must be fish. I once asked my friend how the birds could possibly feed on such polluted water. I suppose that the acids in their digestive systems are stronger than ours.

Whether Tambo looks like a dump or not, an estimated thousand birds cannot be wrong. With the absence of any other suitable alternative, I surmise the birds have learned to settle with what is available to them.

The big problem, though, is that what is available now may not be available in the near future. There are plans to reclaim the tidal mud flats for industrial and other infrastructure developments. We see changes happening all the time. Nearby land areas are already bustling with construction activities and mechanical cranes dominate the landscape. One site is set to become "The Mall of Asia," designed to rival the biggest malls in the world.

The Environment Research Center of Hokkaido University recently came out with survey findings indicating that the populations of several species of migratory birds including that of the brown shrike, one of the most common migrant birds found in the country, have rapidly shrank. The research team believes that degradation or loss of habitat at the wintering countries maybe the cause of the population decline. This is not surprising, since birds depend heavily on their wintering sites for food and habitat, without which birds are unlikely to be able to migrate back north.

The Tambo Mud Flats is ecologically linked to the 380 hectares of coastal lagoons and mangroves at the nearby Coastal Road, Parañaque. Together with the coastal wetlands of Tanza in Navotas, the coastal tidal areas and mangroves of Tambo make up the largest, but also the last, mangrove and tidal areas of Metro Manila.

Given this, there should be no reason why it should not be protected. The WBCP participated early this year in the Asian Waterfowl Census and estimated that the two Parañaque wetlands support daily a minimum of 4,000 birds. Thousands of birds depend on these areas to survive. Our club ornithologist, Arne Jensen, believes that the waterbirds are treating the areas as one area. During low tide, they use the mud flats of Tambo as feeding area, but during high tide, they are fully dependent on the presence of high tide roosts in and around the mangroves of Fortune Island in the Coastal Lagoon. Conservation of the said areas will be of huge importance for the birds and for the environment.

Birds do us a great service. They are extremely efficient insect-eaters and keep their numbers at bay. They are also strong indicators of the general health of an environment. The absence of birds in an area says a lot about the deterioration of the environment. If that is not economically important enough, there is a huge potential on birding and bird sites as a tourist attraction. People from around the world would travel to see birds in their natural habitat.

With the amount of help birds give us, I think they deserve at least a decent place to stay for the winter. Besides, do we really need another mall, or whatever it is that they are planning to build? It will be a big loss for mankind if there comes a time that too few birds celebrate the wonder of migration. Discovery Channel always says that there is only one place we call home, only one earth to protect. I say there is only one Tambo Mud Flats. Let us protect it.

Mark Villa, 21, is a member of the Wild Bird Club of the Philippines (WBCP) and a recent graduate of Ateneo de Manila University. (To learn more about bird watching and the Tambo Mud Flats, please visit the WBCP website at www.birdwatch.ph.)

Sacrificing the pork barrel

DR. MINGUITA Padilla hit the the bull's eye with her suggestion (PDI Letters, 7/29/04) for our honorable elected officials, especially our legislators, to make the biggest sacrifice of all: by voluntarily giving up part of their pork barrel. I say the Filipino people should as well pose this challenge to all our elected officials. Do I already hear howls of protest? It would be quite pathetic if many of our politicians would just shrug off this challenge with a "business as usual" attitude. The problem with our lawmakers and political leaders today is that most of them are bent on enriching themselves through the machinery of corruption in government.

Corruption is a retrogressive social virus that paralyzes development and progress. We are 3rd in Asia and 11th in the world among the most corrupt country.

As rightly observed, the pork barrel, disguised as the Countrywide Development Fund, is the politicians' favorite cookie jar, the kitty that corrupt itchy hands would like to readily grab, snatch, swallow hook, line and... they might as well devour the whole fishing boat, too. True or not, exaggerated or not, the pork barrel, as seen by many, is a reimbursement voucher and/or check payments to settle the political/campaign debts of winning candidates.

In a recent report conducted by the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism, most congressmen were found to have become wealthier during their incumbency. Is this generally true with most of our politicians? Does the filth of corruption really smell that awfully bad? Is it any wonder that our people have become misanthropic, distrustful and embittered?

Come to think of it, our ballooning budget deficit and national debt keep mounting every day by the millions, casting a long dark spell over the next generations. Unfairly, our children and grandchildren will have to carry the debt burden. I can only imagine the outrage of the next generations once they realize that a sizable portion of the debt they have to pay accumulated because of the corruption of their elders, particularly the politicians.

Dr. Padilla's call for a "big sacrifice" now would help "ease" that "burden" future generations will have to carry.

—**JOHN ONZAL**
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No to NBN coverage of Olympic Games

IN HIS column (PDI, 7/30/04) titled "Nice Nyoks," Al Mendoza printed—and wholeheartedly endorsed—a resolution filed by Bacolod City Rep. Monico "Nyoks" Puentevella urging Malacañang to support NBN, the ailing government TV station, in its bid to cover sporting events where our athletes are competing.

On the surface, Puentevella's proposal appears praiseworthy—even patriotic—but on deeper scrutiny, it is not all that nice. Let me lay down the real score:

1. Giving NBN the monopoly of covering local and international sports events is a direct and vicious attack on the spirit of free enterprise. If it does so, the government would deprive private networks the opportunity to broadcast and profit from such events.

2. As proven by its inept handling of the 2000 Sydney Olympics, the 2002 Busan Asian Games and the 2003 Vietnam Southeast Asian Games—not to mention the PBA conferences—NBN is hardly the model of broadcasting excellence. So why is Puentevella rewarding mediocrity? Where's the joy in watching sports on television if the coverage is lousy? How can our athletes be inspired to seek glory when the kind of TV coverage they get is so uninspiring? Why, up to now, NBN can't even produce a decent sports section in its news programs. No wonder it's the least watched local network.

3. The reason why we may not be able to watch our athletes in action at the Athens Olympics is that NBN owes the International Olympic Committee $1.2 million in unpaid broadcast rights fees for the 1996 Atlanta and 2000 Sydney Olympics. These expensive fees are usually recovered through commercial sponsorships of the telecast. But most sponsors look for quality and, obviously, there wasn't much of that in NBN's past sports misadventures. Thus, the $1.2 million in embarrassing debts. If NBN is to aim still for Athens, there's a fine chance it will set a new Olympic record in the payment arrears event—at the expense, again, of our taxpayers.

I hope the energetic congressman has not been misled into thinking that the government station holds the nation's only chance of getting a view of the Athens Olympics. As I understand it, ABC-5 and Solar Sports made separate bids as early as last year but had to back out last June when it became clear that telecasting the Games would be a foolish financial risk since time was fast running out to secure enough sponsors. So now NBN is making it appear that it alone is our savior when, in truth, it is the cause of the Philippines becoming the laughingstock of the entire international Olympic community.

By all means, let's telecast the exploits of our athletes whenever practicable. That's the least we can do for them. But let's not lose sight of fairness and professionalism when pondering the right TV station for the job.

—**GION O. GUERRERO,**
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Tax cheats worse than murderers

INSTEAD of imposing new taxes—like the tax on text messaging—the government should stop giving tax amnesties. The tax amnesties favor the rich who, according to the National Tax Research Center, are the biggest tax evaders.

Tax evasion is a crime. The National Internal Revenue Code says so. Granting tax amnesty is worse than giving amnesty to murderers, robbers and kidnappers. A murderer may take one or two lives, but a businessman or big landowner who cheats the government of taxes is guilty of the death of thousands of people—whether deprived of proper health care; or due to road accidents because of poorly maintained roads; or during natural calamities for lack of relief funds. Tax cheats trigger shortfalls in public funds, which in turn lead to underdevelopment, and then to unemployment and poverty.

If the government stops granting tax amnesty and collects the billions of pesos in taxes already due from the big taxpayers, it would not have to impose additional tax burdens on the poor who already pay the bigger share of government revenue through indirect taxes, which constitute more than 80 percent of government income.

The proposed tax on text is one of those indirect taxes that bear a bigger impact on the poor than on the rich. Most low-income people rely on cell phone text messaging because it is cheaper. The rich prefer voice calls because they are more efficient, even though more expensive. Communication is a basic human activity that ought not to be heavily taxed, especially if used for emergency, information and the like. To teenagers, texting is equivalent to the pursuit of happiness. You don't tax happiness. It is against democracy.

—**CHOLO REYES**
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A testament to the need for change

IMELDA Marcos should be happy with "Imelda," the movie. The film focused on her extravagance and caprice. It did not touch much on the inhumanity and barbarism of the martial law regime of her husband, of which she was a beneficiary.

The Marcos martial law regime was supported by the US government. The Marcoses controlled the military, and the military controlled the whole of the country. It was this system that allowed the Marcoses to lord it over our country. It was this system that empowered Imelda to accumulate her shoes, perhaps to match her jewelry. It was this system that established crony capitalism and allowed a new breed of elite class to plunder the country's resources.

The film presented Mrs. Marcos' avarice and flaunted the grandeur of her taste. Portraying her as a concerned citizen, sensitive and compassionate to the plight of her people, would have been malicious. "Imeldific" was not coined from nothing.

It showed actual footage of interviews with Mrs. Marcos herself—enough to judge her as eclectic, if one is kind; or stupid, if one is average. This was the entertaining part.

However, the martial law regime and its key personages should not be viewed only in this light. Martial law was an era of outright censorship, when those who resisted were detained, tortured, killed, or simply disappeared from the face of the earth. The beneficiaries of the martial law regime lurk free, or remain in the corridors of power, and continue to enjoy the fruits of their plundered wealth. And the victims, the Filipino masses, still wallow in abject poverty—a testament that real changes have to roll.

—**JULIE L. PO**
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Out of focus

THIS is a reaction to a newsbrief in your newspaper's July 28 issue regarding Angeles City Mayor Carmelo Lazatin's "expressing grave concern" about the plan of President Macapagal-Arroyo to place Pagcor under the Department of Finance.

As mayor of Angeles City, instead of being "a close observer of Pagcor's operations," he should focus his concerns on the distressing problems of his city. To cite a few: the poor garbage collection service which poses a threat to public health and cleanliness; bad traffic because of bad roads, not to mention the street vendors almost encroaching on main thoroughfares.

It is incomprehensible why some elected officials alienate themselves from the more important but basic tasks of their office. Maybe Mayor Lazatin could put into good use the "golden eggs of Pagcor" in addressing the various concerns of Angeles City.

—**ANA MARIE D. HIPOLITO,**
22-13 Torrevista St., Carmenville Subd.,
Angeles City 2009

A matter of honor for Filipinos

WHAT can the Philippines do to put the Australian government in its place? This was the question posed by the July 30 editorial of the Inquirer. Then it lamely suggested a response that amounts to a wimpish slap on the wrist.

A more robust response is called for. The Philippines should close down all the sex bars, the Australian ones first, that traffic Filipino women and children into sexual slavery. This would be a more pointed and powerful message and should show that the Arroyo government means business in defending not only Angelo de la Cruz but, more importantly, the honor of the Filipino people.

So long as the Philippine government fails to enforce its own laws and protect the most vulnerable of its citizens, there will be criticism and condemnation from the international community.

—**FR.SHAY CULLEN,**
Preda Human Development Center
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USS Russell case smells fishy

WE smell something fishy in the way the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority authorities acted on the investigation report on human waste dumping by the US Navy ship USS Russell (PDI, 7/31/04 & 8/02/04).

It is disgusting that the crew of the ship violated port rules and showed disrespect both for nature and our people by dumping the ship's wastes, then refusing citation when they were found out. More abominable is the attempt of SBMA officials to suppress the report by pressuring the investigators to withdraw their own incident report, and to apologize to the lawbreakers.

Our environment group believes that our government should not compromise the safety of our local waters for political or financial considerations.

We demand an immediate, independent investigation of the dumping incident, of the alleged confiscation of the digital camera diskette of the original investigators by a US Navy personnel, and of the attempt of SBMA seaport officials to hide the truth. When the truth is out, let appropriate sanctions be applied.

—**LA RAINNE ABAD-SARMIENTO,**
president, Timpuyog-Zambales,
Maranon cor. Fontimayor Sts.,
San Narciso, Zambales

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INQBOX

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Pagna-publish angTXT nyo, may free Guyito stuffd toy kayo! ü

News and Opinion

To Bayani Fernando, DENR reported that the quality of Metro Manila air was still "acceptable," not that it had improved.—**Al Yu**, *Quezon City*

"Most Pinoys don't believe that GMA won?" Nonsense! 53 percent does not mean "MOST!"—**C.D. Santarosa**, *Quezon City*

Why would FPJ and Loren Legarda spend much money, time and effort if they were the ones who cheated?—**Al Yu**, *Quezon City*

To Mr. De Quiros, Please write about life, its joys and sorrows as you've experienced it. I like it best when you do that. Stop bashing GMA. It is useless!—**Jo**, *Boracay*

I have stopped reading De Quiros' column as it is very negative. But read his Aug. 2 column (re: gall bladder operation), it is the only one worth reading so far. —**Julie Luv**, *Zamboanga*

Thank God, for the powerful and moving words of Sir Conrado de Quiros. Sir, you have a way of inspiring the youth!—**Maria Criselda Gasmin**, *Batangas City*

Kudos to Mr. Neal Cruz on writing about the evils of the parliamentary system. May I add: all the congressmen will put their wives and siblings as heads of all government offices.—**Raoul Reyes**, *Quezon City*

Jess Abrera, keep up your pro-life opinion cartoons. You give balance to the other pro-birth control writers.—**Sister Pilar Verzosa**, *Makati City*

Re our poor English, blame the TV networks for showing canned shows, cartoons and telenovelas with bastardized Tagalog!—**Alez Catuncan**, *Lian, Batangas*

Thank you, Ms Rina David, for your column of July 25: "What not to worry about?" (Visible panty lines, dark underarms, (un)fair complexion, wrinkles)—**Jade Garcia**, *Cavite City*

Business

Please write about where we can invest dollars in the Philippines, aside from stocks. Where can we earn 13 percent interest on a 20-year time deposit?—**Chilly**, *Taytay*

Health and Science

I'd like to suggest that you add more interesting facts about Health and Science.—**Marc Barbara B. Lim**, *Balanga City*

You have informative articles. Keep it up.—**Ouzie**, *Camarines Sur*

Motoring

Please give the latest information (performance, function, style) on cars in the market. But you should have comparisons of different brands, costs, engines, etc.—**Giogee**, *Quezon City*

Truly helpful and educational, especially to a guy like me who's just learning the ropes of vehicle maintenance.—**Gaudencio F. Santos Jr.**, *Pasay City*

Because of my hectic schedule in school, I am easily lost in the motoring world. But with your Motoring section, I am always updated and revving up, too!—**Jon Marc Obag**, *Quezon City*

Metro

Mon Tulfo should get the facts first before making malicious accusations. His act is completely unfair and irresponsible.—**Robert Tan**, *Marikina*

Saturday Super

Great articles! Hope you could write more informative ones. Chuck Dy rules!—**Oliver Ornido**, *Antipolo City*

2bU

Insightful articles!—**Bong**, *Quezon*

Lifestyle

I love this section because it features all about fashion, beauty, arts, womanhood and a lot more. Keep up the good work!—**Sarah Avisado**, *Legaspi City*

The Sunday Lifestyle wedding milestones is great. It helps people to announce the love of all couples to the world and it is free. YAHOO!—**Junel**, *Manila*

Entertainment

I love this section because it features the juiciest and most up-to-date articles about interesting celebrities in town!—**Bernadette Sy**, *Manila*

Sunday Inquirer Magazine

I wish you would feature Jericho Rosales!—**Marie**, *Cebu*

Junior Inquirer

You have informative features on kids. Great. But you need to add more pages, more activities, facts and figures.—**Giogee**, *Quezon City*

Your Junior Inquirer is very informative to children like me but it will be better if you publish it weekly.—**Paul Dwayne Villalobos**, *Iloilo City*

I love all your articles.—**Carla Bayta**, *Q.C.*

"Pabili" in Pampango is "pasalwan," not "pasale."—**Joseph Camiling**, *Mexico, Pampanga*

I like the list of workshops in the "Out There" feature. It gives me an idea where to take my younger sister on weekends.—**Kristine Clair**, *Pasay City*

I really appreciate Inquirer for coming up with JI. I find it to be an informative section which kids can relish. Keep up the good work!—**Johan Stephanie Libo-on**, *Iloilo*

People at Work

Very informative.—**Estrellita David**, *Parañaque*

You give me the strength and the inspiration to face every work week! I am A-okay with your People at Work!—**Carlota Santos**, *Cagayan de Oro*

Just Shop

Your magazine is hip, comprehensive. It has bright ideas and it is a delight with its creative shots and brilliant blend.—**Anne Aligaya**, *San Juan*

Through this magazine, I am able to know the prices of the latest fashion trends in town. It also indicates where I can get these pieces.—**Aida Dacles**, *Pasig City*

Hi! It is my first time to read your Just Shop magazine today. I love those freebies coupons that you give away!—**Jenny**, *Valenzuela City*

Great July issue! Why not tell us where those featured shops can be found? Where is People are People? I want those sneakers!—**Gina**, *Makati*

Travel

It's like experiencing serendipity by bringing one to worlds and places undiscovered and untouched.—**Paz Garcia**, *Cainta*

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MINDANAO BUREAU
FEP Printing Corp. Bldg.
Ma-a Road, Davao City
Tel. No. (082)244-1770 to 71
Fax No. (082)244-1771
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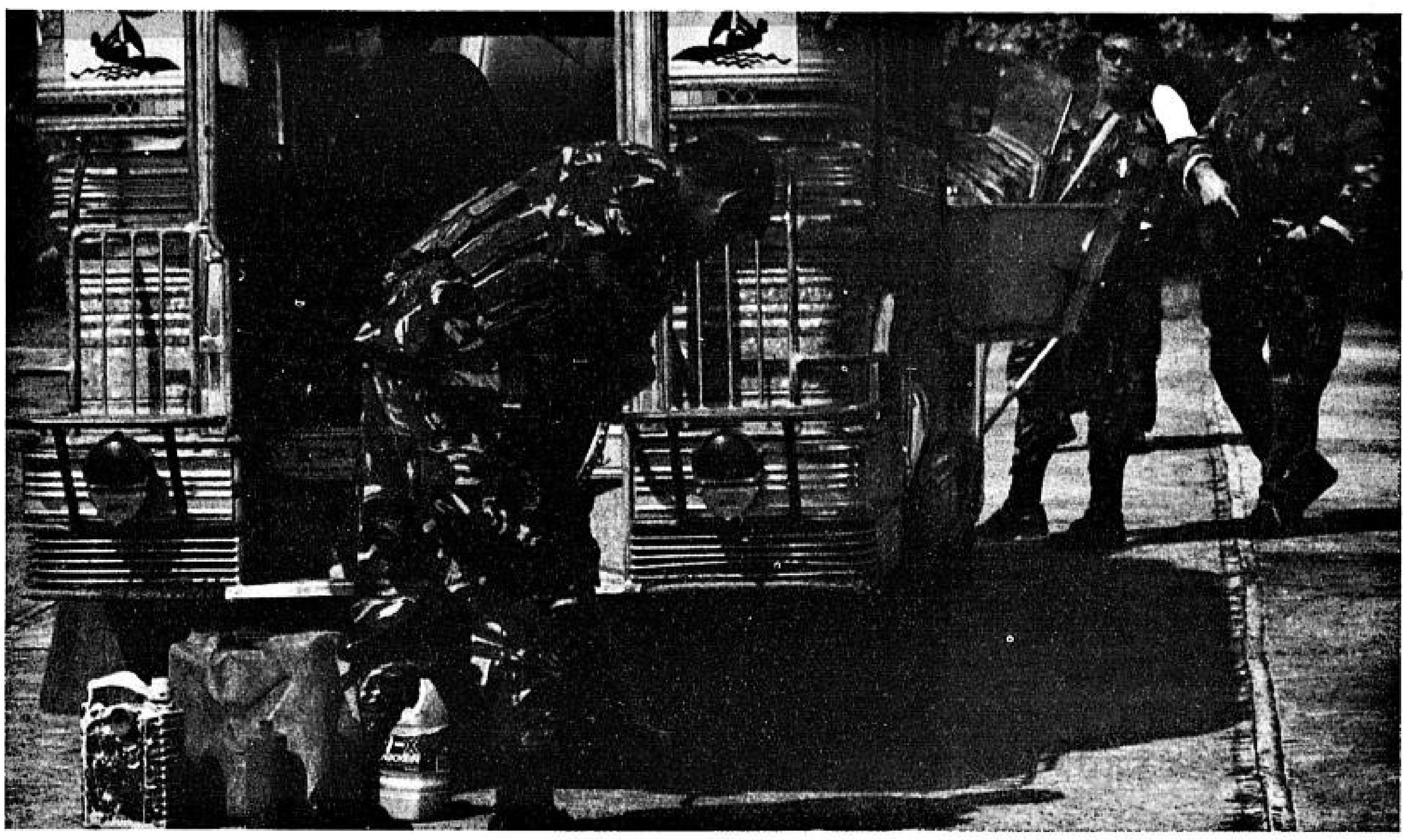


BALANCE PISTON

REUTERS

It's not this jeep's pistons these Filipino and American soldiers, taking part in military exercises dubbed Balanced Piston 04-03, are checking for in a road leading to a camp in Carmen, North Cotabato. Checking for bombs and weapons in passing vehicles was part of the Filipino soldiers' training.

Army says Pinoy soldier died in accidental firing during war games break

COTABATO CITY—Military officials yesterday said the shooting death of a Filipino corporal during a break in military exercises between Philippine and US troops in Carmen, North Cotabato, was an accident.

Cpl. Vic Baticulo was killed when the M-16 Armalite rifle of a fellow soldier went off.

"It was an accident," said Col. Isagani Cachuela, 602nd Infantry Brigade chief.

Baticulo was asleep when his fellow soldier, Cpl. Arnold Tajan, was preparing his bed at the enlisted men's quarters inside Camp Lucero.

Cachuela said the accident was not kept a secret but was not announced "because we were still investigating."

"Now that the investigation is over and we found out it was indeed accidental," Cachuela said, "Tajan is still liable and would be charged."

Tajan, now detained at the Carmen police station detention cell, was preparing to sleep and as he checked his rifle, it went off, hitting Baticulo who was sleeping beside Tajan's bed.

Baticulo was rushed to the hospital but died along the way.

Baticulo and Tajan, of the Army's 39th Infantry Battalion, were among 50 Filipino soldiers being trained by US soldiers on antiterrorism and marksmanship.

Earlier in the day, the soldiers were trained on marksmanship. After the day's practice, the soldiers cleaned their firearms.

Cachuela said the trainees were supposed to leave their firearms in a designated area of the camp.

"Inside their sleeping quarters, the soldiers are not supposed to carry their rifles," he said. "Corporal Tajan violated that policy and he is answerable."

The three-week exercises would end on Saturday, Aug. 14. *Charlie C. Señase and Edwin O. Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

3 Chinoys seized in Cavite; 1 escapes

By Marlon Ramos
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

GUNMEN kidnapped three Chinese-Filipino brothers who run a business at the industrial park in Rosario, Cavite, the Philippine National Police said yesterday.

Police said the brothers were traveling on Saturday in Tanza when gunmen in a Sedan blocked their sports utility vehicle. The gunmen took control of their vehicle, but one of the brothers jumped out and escaped.

"At the moment, we can't give out any information about the case," an official of the National Anti-Kidnapping Task Force said. "Our paramount concern is the safety of the victims."

The official said local police set up road blocks and made searches after the brother who escaped contacted an employee of the resort and got him to report the abduction.

"We are not aware of any ransom demand, and we are not at liberty to release information until after the victims are freed," a police spokesperson said.

But Senior Supt. Roberto Rosales, Cavite police chief, said a certain Jun Janora went to the Tanza police station to report that his boss, Patterson Ngo, was traveling with his brothers Richard and Jose in a Mitsubishi Pajero on their way home to Rosario, Cavite, when three gunmen in a Mitsubishi Lancer blocked their path in Barangay Capipiza in Tanza.

Two of the gunmen took over the Pajero with the three brothers in it.

When they reached the national highway in Trece Martirèz City, Patterson was able to jump off the Pajero.

In a follow-up operation, police recovered the Mitsubishi Pajero abandoned inside the University Hills Subdivision in Barangay Sampaloc 4, Dasmariñas town.

Rosales said police were on the track of Ngo's brothers and that operatives from the Presidential Anti-Crime and Emergency Response team were taking the lead. *With a report from Reuters*

GenSan radioman shot by boxer's bodyguard dies in hospital ICU

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—A reporter of radio station dxBB, local branch station of GMA Super Radyo here, died of a lone bullet wound in the face 11:25 a.m. yesterday.

Doctors had observed Monday morning that the heartbeat of Jonathan Abayon, 27, was slowing down, prompting them to declare he had a slim chance of surviving.

At around 10 a.m. yesterday, a priest visited the victim.

Abayon was operated on around 11 a.m. at the General Santos Doctor's Hospital Sunday. At around 2 p.m. on the same date he was taken out of the operating room and was confined at the hospital's intensive care unit where he remained unconscious until his death.

The victim was shot while in a vehicle by William Bael, one of the civilian bodyguards of people's featherweight champ Manny Pacquiao on Sunday dawn.

Gonzalo "Boy" Lopez, also a friend of Pacquiao's, who was driving the pick-up vehicle where the suspect and victim were on board, claimed the two figured in a verbal tussle prior to the killing.

Lopez, however, refused to reveal what triggered the heated argument between the two.

The suspect, a former enlisted member of the Army's 37th Infantry Battalion who retired after serving for about 20 years, is atlarge.

Supt. Willie Dangane, city police director, gave his men 36 hours to arrest the suspect. The ultimatum is set to expire 11 p.m. Monday.

Early yesterday, Dangane said, the local police filed a case against Bael, but he directed his men to amend the complaint from frustrated murder to murder upon learning that Abayon had already died.

John Paul Jubelag, a correspondent of the Philippine Star and interim president of the newly-organized Sarangani Bay Press Club, asked the National Bureau of Investigation to take the lead in investigating the Abayon murder case.

Pacquiao hogged headlines here last year when he created a scene inside a bar when the performing singer refused to sit beside him.

Jubelag said it was possible Pacquiao's bodyguard harbored rancor against Abayon.

Abayon on Saturday evening went with Dangane to Sydney Hotel to attend a party held by the Guardians Brotherhood.

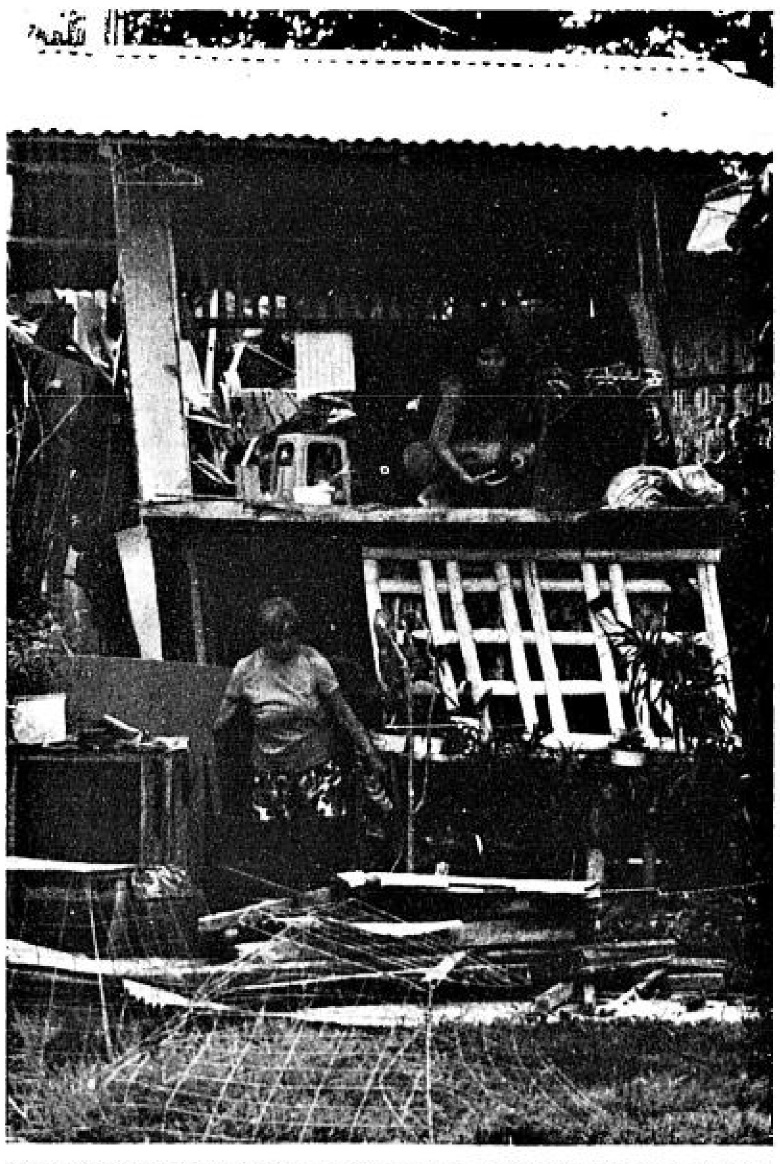
There, several Guardian members were reportedly irked at the boisterous attitude of Abayon while he was drinking.

One Guardian member, who asked not to be identified, told reporters he overheard Bael saying "If Abayon wound not fall in Sydney, he will meet an accident outside."

After the party, he rode along with Pacquiao in going to the boxer's residence in Barangay Labangal. Abayon wanted to interview the boxing champ regarding his next fight.

At Pacquiao's residence, the drinking session continued. Past 3 a.m., Pacquiao allegedly asked permission to sleep.

When Abayon and Lopez were about to leave, Bael asked to hitch a ride in Abayon's pick-up as he would reportedly go to the residence of Pacquiao's mother to get something. *Aquiles Z. Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau*



NATURE'S WRATH in Talisay whipped up a whirlwind that destroyed houses and crops. Photo shows the house of Precy Villacorta, a villager, shortly after the whirlwind hit. TONEE DESPOJO/CDN PHOTO

Whirlwinds sweep through 3 Negros areas

BACOLOD CITY—An eight-year-old boy was hurt while 47 houses were either destroyed or suffered damages when three separate whirlwinds hit four villages in Valladolid town, Negros Occidental, in a span of four days.

The last whirlwind to hit the area came at about 3 p.m. on Sunday when the twister destroyed nine houses and damaged 34 others in Barangays Poblacion and Paloma, Valladolid, about 31.1 km south of this city.

Valladolid Mayor Ricardo Presbitero said a Grade 2 pupil suffered minor burns when a live wire hit his back after the twister blew off the roof of his house.

He said Jason Arile was already released from the hospital yesterday.

Power was also cut off for a few hours after the whirlwind knocked off three power posts. Electricity was restored in the evening.

The first twister hit Barangay Bayabas, Valladolid, on Wednesday. It uprooted a nipa hut and dropped it to the ground.

Another twister hit another village in Valladolid on Friday, this time destroying a house and damaging two others in Barangay Bagongbayan.

Two days later, the twister hit Poblacion and Paloma, which came from the direction of the Himwang Creek.

On Aug. 1, a more powerful whirlwind swept through Ramona Village in Talisay City in Cebu province, destroying homes and displacing dozens of villagers. *Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Mindanao farmers back NFA chief as agri head

GROUPS of farmers and grain millers in Mindanao yesterday welcomed the appointment of National Food Authority chair Arthur Yap as agriculture secretary.

In a press release, the Maguindanao Provincial Farmers Action Council (MPFAC), Davao Multi-purpose Seed Producers' Cooperative (Damsepco) and the Cotabato City and Maguindanao Province Grains Retailers Confederation (Grecon) said in separate resolutions that they supported the appointment of Yap as head of the Department of Agriculture.

The MPFAC was quoted in the release as saying in its resolution that Yap could provide help to farmers not only in Mindanao if he continues with his previous efforts at the NFA to help farmers' groups increase their incomes.

The Damsepco was quoted as saying in its resolution that several programs of Yap in the NFA, like the Institutional Farmers as Distributors, helped greatly in improving the income of farmers and stabilize the prices of rice in the local market.

The farmers' groups also cited Yap for his other programs in the NFA such as the Cooperative Development Incentive Fee which allowed farmers to buy their own post-harvest facilities and fertilizers and the Mill and Buy Scheme which gave millers broader participation in programs to improve farmers' conditions.

Chained girl sues parents, brod for abuses

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—"I want to see my parents and brother chained for life."

This was what the 14-year-old girl said, as she filed charges against her parents and brother for treating her like an animal and chaining her in their house for a year in Don Salvador Benedicto town, Negros Occidental.

The girl yesterday went to the Negros Occidental provincial prosecutor's office to file a formal complaint against Teodoro and Virginia Librando and her brother, Teodoro III.

She was accompanied by social workers Merle Garcia and Milagros de los Reyes and a policewoman in filing the complaint for violations of Republic Act 7610 otherwise known as the Child Abuse Act.

Maria (not her real name) reiterated that she was determined to pursue the complaint against her parents and brother, even if they had sought her forgiveness.

"They did not pity me when they chained me," she said.

According to the complaint, her parents and brother subjected her to a "series of (acts of) extreme cruelty through physical, emotional and psychological abuse."

Aside from chaining her, the girl was slapped, punched, pinched and kicked. Her arms and body also suffered minor burns, allegedly inflicted by her parents and brother.

Teodoro chained his daughter in June last year because, he said, he wanted her to stop skipping classes at the Bunga Elementary School where she was a Grade 5 pupil and to teach her to stay away from boys.

He said he was afraid that Maria would end up either pregnant or raped and killed like a woman from a neighboring village.

To enable her to do household chores, the girl said her parents would detach the chain from the post but the other end of the shackles remained in her right foot. The chain would again be attached to the pole after she was done with her chores or when she would be left alone in the house.

Last July 23, Maria saw the opportunity to escape when her mother asked her to get some pig feed. Holding her chains, the girl ran until she reached a cave a few kilometers away from the house where she hid for two days and two nights. She survived by eating wild bananas.

Later, she walked to Barangay Quezon in San Carlos where a couple took pity on her and kept her in their house until officials of Don Salvador Benedicto town came to rescue her on July 28.

Maria said she stopped going to school last year when she was in Grade 5 because her parents prevented her from doing so.

She said she felt she was not a member of the family because among her 18 siblings, she was the only one being maltreated.

She has four siblings with Teodoro's first wife and 13 with own mother, Virginia.

In 2002, Maria said she left home because she could no longer bear the maltreatment from her mother who would bump her head on the wall or punch and pinch her every time she made a mistake.

But her father found her the following day at neighboring Barangay Spur 14. Teodoro then beat her up and shaved her hair.

She made another attempt to escape in June 2003. But her father chained her and severely beat her.

Cebu prelate starts campaign to block 2-child policy plan

CEBU CITY—Senators and congressmen should expect soon a letter from Cebu Archbishop Ricardo Cardinal Vidal, informing them of his strong position against the two-child policy proposal submitted to the House of Representatives.

The letter, Vidal said, would first be given to the 20 congressmen who received last March the Catholic Church's Blessed Pedro Calungsod Pro-Vita (pro-life) Awards for their legislative work.

While the prelate would not elaborate on the content of his letter, he said he wrote it to urge the legislators to "uphold the sanctity of life and family."

"I will not make any imposition on anybody. If they are Christians, they will know how to respond," Vidal told the INQUIRER on Sunday.

Vidal, who celebrated on Sunday the 9th anniversary of the Oasis of Love-Cebu chapter at the Cebu Catholic Television Network (CCTN), also reiterated his call on Catholic lay groups to oppose the new proposals on population control in Congress.

"You are now asked to take a stand. Stand up and speak out for what is right and what is true with conviction and courage. May I ask you to do more than just pray in private or on TV," Vidal said in his homily.

"We celibate bishops and priests can say and do only so much in our pulpit preaching. However, often (it) is no comparison in your face-to-face encounter in real life. Life's realities are bad enough, which the forces of evil are trying to make worse in the name of national development and for the sake of poverty alleviation," the prelate said.

Vidal said the Catholic faithful could start this crusade against artificial contraception by example through the practice of the natural methods of contraception, which is accepted by the Church.

He said that the recipients of the pro-life award should expect a letter from him soon. Among them are Cebu City Representatives Raul del Mar (north district) and Antonio Cuenco; and Cebu province Representatives Simeon Kintanar (2nd dist.), and Antonio Yapha (3rd dist.).

"Even if they will say that 'I am a senator (or Congressman) for everybody.' Yes, but they should not impose on the Catholics; that is another thing," he added.

Vidal, during the interview, also described as another population control proposal the suggestion of Rep. Ace Barbers for a five-year moratorium for couples to have a child.

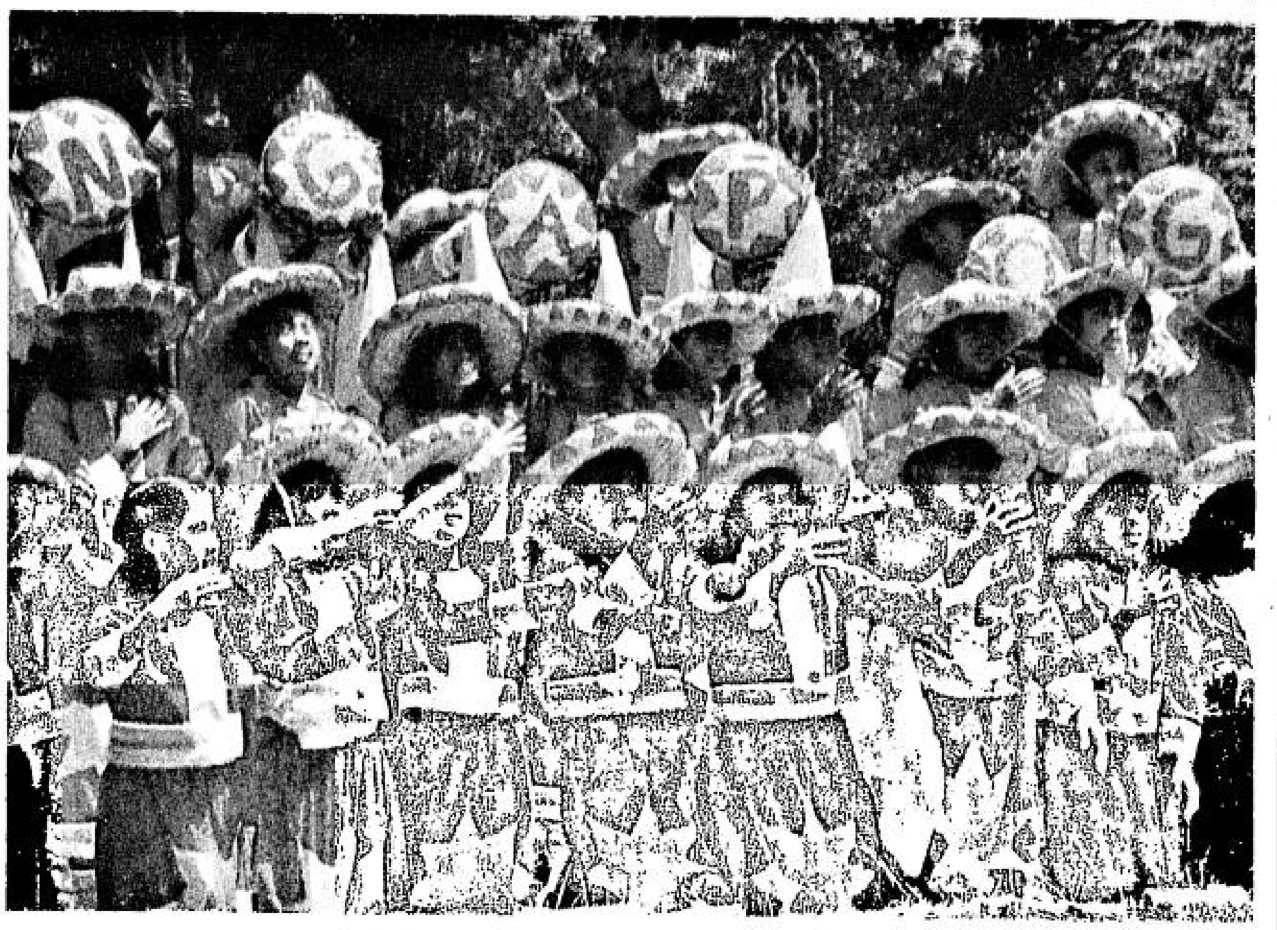
"What if God says 'Sige, I will also give a five-year moratorium on my blessings.' We are not going to dictate on the things that the Lord will give. It is the right of God, we cannot impose on him," he said.

"Life is a gift and gifts are not to be limited. If you limit the gifts of God we might lose all gifts," he said.

Vidal said the legislators equate economic development with population control and this is a misconception that should be corrected.

"I will not impose anymore; they have their good sense. They are mature and responsible people," he said. *Bernadette Parco, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Tanong ng Bayan
INQ INQ TV TV
ABC Tuwing Huwebes, 8pm
I-text ang inyong "fearless view" sa 2910. Pipiliin namin ang pinakamagaling na sagot. Ang premyo linggo-linggo: Isang 21" color TV set!
I-type: INQTV <ang inyong sagot>, <buong pangalan>, <siyudad o probinsiya>, tapos ipadala sa 2910. Cut-off time: WEDNESDAY, 6 PM. Winner will be identified during the InqTV program: Thursday, 8pm, on ABC.
text 2910
1-woman policy: Uubra ba sa machong Pinoy?
Narito ang ilan sa mga sagot ninyo. Text na!
"kng nggwa ng pinoy ang gwain ng kolokoy, lalong kya nyang mgpkagudboy alang2 kay mahal, neneng, at totoy"
Joselito delos Reyes, Bicutan
"ktptan lng ang ktpat ng pmchong pinoy n yan,manoy n lging glit,pitikin ng sglit,mgandang kinbukasan nman ang cyang mgging kpalit"
Cynthia Ravela, Ermita Manila



SHINE ON.

BING GONZALES/PDI MINDANAO

Pupils of the Penaplata Elementary School in the Island Garden City of Samal participate in the city's Pangapog Festival, which came at an appropriate time as the city celebrates the return of power after suffering from a prolonged outage caused by damages to a marine power cable.

Palace caught in feud over storage fees

LA TRINIDAD, Benguet—Malacañang is trying to intercede in an apparent feud between farmers, vegetable traders and the provincial government over fees the government plans to charge them for the use of a state-sponsored cold storage program, the INQUIRER learned.

President Macapagal-Arroyo ordered the establishment of the program, which is composed of eight mobile freezers that vary in capacity from 20-foot long refrigerated trucks to freezer vans, and a series of refrigerated warehouses that have yet to be built.

The program was meant to respond to Benguet farmers' protests that accused Ms Arroyo's administration of allowing imported salad vegetables between 2001 and 2003.

But former Agriculture Secretary Luis Lorenzo Jr. was surprised to find on July 25 that the cold chain's prime beneficiaries are now feuding over which group has the better right to use it.

Lorenzo visited this town to sign a memorandum of agreement with farmers that prescribed the daily fees required to maintain the cold chain.

But Benguet Board Member John Kim blocked the agreement, "on behalf of farmers who did not even know there was such a fee for shipping their goods to Manila."

Former Benguet Gov. Raul Molintas also assailed the local government for allowing rich traders to use the refrigerated trucks, which Ms Arroyo had subsidized for poor farmers.

Faustino Maslan, outgoing Cordillera director of the Department of Agriculture, said the government was taken aback by reports that the cold chain program caused farmers to be pitted against vegetable traders.

He said the cold chain fees were established by the provincial government to raise maintenance funds for the vehicles.

But the DA did not support the P3.50 a kilogram charge being imposed by the previous Benguet administration, Maslan said.

Instead, Kim had proposed fees as low as P2 per kg to allow farmers real access to the refrigerated vehicles. He also asked the local government to open the fees to a public hearing.

"(The current cold chain fees are) too high and it assumes that farmers who will use it have ready markets in Metro Manila. The reality is that vegetable traders have existing Manila clients, not the farmers, whose only available wholesale market is the La Trinidad vegetable trading post," Maslan said. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Thursday 8pm + Pagkatapos ng PROBE + ABC
NIÑOS INOCENTES?
Bata pa, kriminal na
plus+
TANONG NG BAYAN
1-woman policy:
Uubra ba sa mga machong Pinoy?
Hatid sa inyo ng aling kabalitaan ngayong linggo, Inquirer Columnist,
Rina Jimenez - David
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Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office
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TEXT: INQTV <SAGOT> <PANGALAN> <SIYUDAD O PROBINSYA> SEND TO 2910. BEST FEARLESS VIEW WINS! LAST WEEK'S WINNER: MS. MELLANY NIEBLA, MANILA

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MEGALOTTO 6/45 6 22 23 28 33 43

4 kidnap gang suspects caught

By Leila B. Salaverria

FOUR suspected members of a gang allegedly responsible for the abduction of at least three Chinese-Filipinos were arrested over the weekend after National Bureau of Investigation agents foiled their attempt to rob a Quezon City pawnshop.

The suspects, alleged members of the Lagado subgroup of the notorious Waray-Waray gang, were nabbed in front of the SM North Edsa mall on Saturday after NBI agents tailed them from Pasig City with the help of an informant.

Four other suspects escaped.

The Lagado group, the most active kidnap-for-ransom gang in Metro Manila, was known for killing some of its victims, NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco said, adding that it had also been linked to robberies, including one involving the owners of a siopao factory who were shot to death.

Another subgroup of the Waray-Waray gang had also been tagged in the kidnapping and killing of Coca Cola executive Betty Chua Sy, Wycoco said. Waray Waray subgroups would sometimes "borrow" men from each other, he added.

The Lagado leader was identified as Calvin Lagado, a native of Jaro, Leyte, who is also wanted for murder. Arrested with him last Saturday were Pacifico Borja, Abeto Puertollano and Castroverde Neil.

Except for Neil, the rest are also Leyte natives.

The NBI also seized guns, grenades and ammunition found on them.

Alvin "Mondoy" Cornista, Hector Cornista, Lupin Superable and Gary Alvero were able to elude their captors.

New men for 5 police districts

By Tina Santos

ANTICRIME efforts of the National Capital Region Police Office (NCPRO) will be given a much-need boost with the addition of 396 new police graduates to Metro Manila's five police districts.

The rookies had just completed an intensive eight-month Police Basic Recruit Course at the National Police Training Institute in Bicutan, Taguig, and would assist the police regulars.

The new graduates would first be assigned to the Regional Special Action Unit (RSAU) "for exposure" before they will be tasked to reinforce police visibility in the five districts, NCRPO spokesperson Bart Bustamante said.

"They will stay at the RSAU for a few months to enhance their skills and familiarize themselves with police work," Bustamante added.

After a few months, the rookie cops would be deployed to Metro Manila's five police districts that recruited them.

"Aspiring policemen would usually go the police districts to apply," Bustamante explained.

"Based on the respective districts' recommendation, the recruits would undergo another screening before they are sent for training," he added.

Bustamante is also confident that the rigid training would equip the trainees with the capability to respond to highly-volatile situations involving crime and terrorism.

"Having undergone training, they would now be as capable as any experienced police officer of the PNP," Bustmante stressed.

At the commencement exercises held at the NCRPO headquarters yesterday in Camp Bagong Diwa, Taguig, Director Ricardo de Leon, NCRPO chief, urged the new policemen to exemplify the characteristics of the true "Kuya sa Kalye" by providing public service to the community.

The "Kuya (Kusa, Umaaksyon, walang Yabang at laging Alerto) Ko sa Kalye (Kaibigan, Alagad ng batas, Lider at lingkod ng mamamayan, Yaman ng kaalaman, Ehemplo ng Katangi-tanging asal), Kasama Ko" program, De Leon said, is part of the NCRPO Transformation Master Plan for 2004-2005, which envisions the transformation of every policeman in Metro Manila as an effective instrument in the fight against crime.

"The introduction of this mindset had effectively saturated the Metro with more policemen walking their respective beats. The tactical application of the master plan calls for the institutionalization of the CCW—checkpoints, chokepoints and walking the beats," De Leon said.

"Law enforcement is a 24-hour job. Our constituents expect no less and we must give them nothing less," he stressed.

RUDY ESPERAS

UMBRELLA CITY

Rain or shine, vendors continue to resist efforts of the Metro Manila Development Authority to get them off the sidewalks along the stretch of Don Mariano Marcos Avenue in Quezon City.

Locked in drama

By Tina Santos

TWENTY persons, allegedly detained in a three-story building inside a Quezon City compound by a Filipino-Chinese businessman, were rescued by policemen yesterday morning.

Investigators said William Lim, with aliases William Tan and William Lee, allegedly prevented building residents from leaving by locking them inside after Adoracion Garcia, the original owner of the property reportedly failed to pay him "millions in debts."

Policemen, together with Sen. Alfredo Lim, who told media that had responded to a call for help from a relative of the owner, swooped down on the compound on Quirino Highway, Novaliches around 11 a.m. and freed the victims. Suspect Lim managed to elude the police.

Garcia said the suspect had locked the gate to bar them from leaving after Lim was unable to get P49 million she "owed" him. The property had been pawned for P17 million and was reportedly reclaimed by Lim under an arrangement with Garcia to avoid foreclosure.

Exec found dead in Ortigas parking lot

By Luige del Puerto

A MANAGER of an Ortigas Center-based company was found dead by an officemate inside a car in a Pasig City parking lot yesterday noon.

Bibiano Baltazar, 50, of Southville Subdivision in Binan, Laguna, was found inside a Toyota Revo at the Avenue Car Park on Sapphire Street around 12:30 p.m. with a gun in his right hand.

Baltazar's hands rested on his lap. He appeared to have shot himself in the mouth, police said. The bullet went through the back of his head, although police are not discounting the possibility of foul play.

PO3 Armand Valenzuela said the car bore no sign of forcible entry. The body also did not show signs that he had fought off someone before he died. He had no other wounds.

Baltazar's wallet and other belongings were also intact, Valenzuela said.

Park attendant Reuben Licuanan said Baltazar, who was a regular customer, entered the car park between 6 to 7 a.m. Monday.

"He told me to collect his parking fee later. Then he went back to his car," he said.

Licuanan said he did not hear a shot nor any commotion, until Baltazar's body was found.

Baltazar, according to colleagues, took charge of opening the office of Sung Yung Industries. He was never late, they added.

"When he was early, he would sleep inside his car, then wake up to open the office at 7:30 a.m.," said Bong Segundo, an officemate. "We started looking for him around 9 a.m. His phone rang, but there was no answer."

Segundo said he asked another officemate, to look for Baltazar at the parking lot at around 11 a.m., thinking that Baltazar might have just taken a nap.

But the officemate apparently had checked out the wrong car. Baltazar drove a Honda City—not a Revo. "He switched cars with an in-law about a week ago," Segundo said, adding that he just learned about it when they were looking for him.

The police said there were documents found in the car. Investigators would not divulge the content of the papers, except to say that the district police's crime laboratory had taken custody of the documents.

Salazar's death has puzzled colleagues, who said the victim did not appear to have any problems worth worrying about.

Makati's new police HQ 'copy' of New York PD

By Margaux C. Ortiz

A FULLY equipped police department patterned after the headquarters of the New York and Los Angeles police departments will soon rise in Makati City's Central Business District (CBD), forming part of a state-of-the-art command outpost aimed at deterring criminal and terrorist activities in the country's financial capital.

Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay yesterday said construction had begun on the city's new police headquarters in the heart of the CBD, bolstering the city government's effort to protect top local and foreign corporations, banks, embassies and commercial establishments.

"As the country's financial capital, Makati is home to the country's top 500 companies, and the headquarters of foreign banks and corporations," Binay said.

He added that 54 embassies and foreign development agencies are also based in Makati and "ensuring their protection is a priority of the city government."

The Makati City Council had appropriated over P200 million for the construction of the police station at the Ayala Avenue Extension, beside the Makati Fire Station.

The new police station is part of a planned command center that would house the Makati Police, the Makati Public Safety office, and the Makati Fire Department, added Information and Community Relations Department head Joey Salgado.

"The construction of the four-story police station was fast-tracked because of terrorist threats to the CBD," Salgado said.

The building is expected to be completed late next year.

Salgado said that its proximity to the CBD would facilitate the policemen's capability to respond quickly to emergency situations.

The command center would also monitor activities in the city's streets through strategically installed close-circuit television units.

An electronic database on relevant information like central traffic management would also be housed in the center.

The old police station, located near the City Hall, would be demolished to give way to a landscaped garden, Salgado added.

Angara-Lacson feud goes to the gutter

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

THE QUARREL between Senators Edgardo Angara and Panfilo Lacson has gone to the gutter, if the text messages about Angara are to be any basis.

I have received numerous text messages—from cellular phone numbers that are not listed in my phone directory—assassinating Angara's character. Some of my friends and acquaintances also told me that they had received the same text messages.

Here are some of them:

"angara, kaya mo bang isumpa na mamatay ang buong pamilya mo na wala kang sex relation kay [blank]? sayang yung pagka-attorney mo, you committed adultery. ang tanda tanda mo na, ang [blank] mo pa (can you swear on the lives of your family members that you're not having sex relations with [blank]. It's a shame that you're a lawyer... You're so old and yet you're still a lecher)."

"Angara tries to blame Lacson for the loss of FPJ & accused Lacson of receiving bribe money frm GMA. Kaya nya bang isumpa na mamatay din ang buong pamilya nya na di sya tumanggap ng pera frm GMA like wat Lacson did (Would he swear on the lives of his family that he didn't accept money from GMA like what Lacson did)?"

"Angara, matanda ka na at kurakot pa! Kaya c [blank] pinatulan na c Sen. Pangilinan kce wla ka ng ibubuga! Amoy lupa ka na. D ka na tinatalaban ng viagra!!! (You're old and corrupt. That's why [blank] went with Sen. Pangilinan because you're already impotent. You smell like soil. Viagra doesn't have any effect on you)."

"Angara father was a japanese collaborator who presented himself to d japanese to b mayor of baler during japanese occupation n ordered d kempetais to kill d family of his political rival who was a guerilla. yan ang batik ng angara clan (That's the stain on the Angara clan)."

I tried calling up two numbers (+63927-6393458 and +63927-7202347) registered on the text messages. But I always got the taped answer, "Sorry, this call is not permitted."

I think I have an idea who's behind those text messages.

He's an expert in psychological warfare—psy war, for short—that's used by military intelligence in destroying the morale of the enemy.

Those messages have the mark of an evil mind, a man who would kill without mercy.

Lastly, the author betrays his gender, what California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger would call a "girlie man." In short, he's a coward.

* * *

Many oldtimers or those who saw the Senate as composed of honorable men and women hark back to the golden days of the Senate.

The Senate of yesteryears was composed of intellectual giants like Sen. Benigno Aquino, Claro M. Recto, Lorenzo Tañada, Jovito Salonga, Arturo Tolentino, Camilo Osias, Jose W. Diokno.

Guess what the present Senate has become? The antonym for intellectual giant.

* * *

What's this I heard that Edgardo Manda, who was relieved recently as general manager of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia) tried to pressure Malacañang into returning him to his post by having his erstwhile subordinates write a letter of appeal to President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Of course, Malacañang saw through the ruse. Manda wasn't given back his post.

Manda is now assigned to the Office of the President doing nothing. He has the title of undersecretary for *consuelo de bobo*.

If I were Manda I would resign.

* * *

What did Manda in was his plan to repair 50 toilets at the Naia 2 terminal building at a cost of P800 million.

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Manda probably doesn't know how big the amount is, but the No. 1 economist in Malacañang knows how to count.

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4. Winner shall receive a call from Globe through his Globe Handyphone. Winner will also be sent an official notice through a courier service informing him that he has won. Winner's name will be announced over 103.5 K-Lite and RX 93.1 on August 17, 2004, between 7-10 am and between 5-8 pm.
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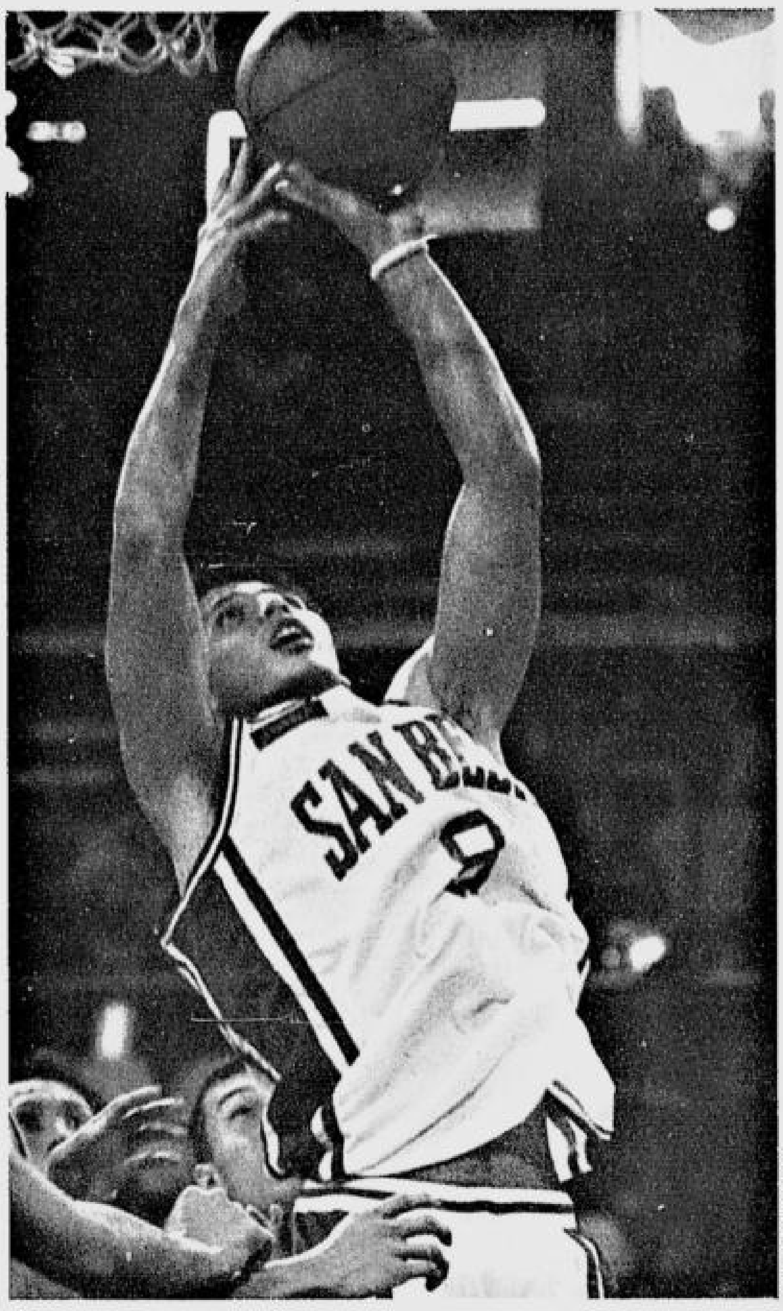


SAN Beda's Jeff Bombeo scores unmolested in the game yesterday.

ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

Lions surprise Altas; Dolphins trip Cards

By Jasmine W. Payo

SAN BEDA pulled a shocker yesterday as the Lions toppled league-leader University of Perpetual Help Altas, 66-52, in the 80th NCAA men's basketball tournament at the Rizal Coliseum.

The seasoned duo of Arjun Cordero and Jeff Bombeo combined for 27 points as they led the Lions' demolition job right from the tip-off.

Another upset unfolded earlier as the Philippine Christian U Dolphins stunned second-seed Mapua Cardinals, 91-79, behind Ramon Retaga Jr.'s career-high 26 points.

Perpetual, which absorbed its first back-to-back defeat, remained on top with a 6-3 card, while Mapua, PCU and San Beda wound up tied at third with 5-4 records.

After building an 11-point buffer at halftime, 36-25, the Lions lost their momentum in the third period as the Perpetual trio of Noy Javier, Fritz Bauzon and Jon-jon Refuerzo trimmed it to a 42-40 margin.

But Cordero's steady baskets, plus Francis Cruz and Edilgusto Soriano's back-to-back triples upped San Beda's lead, 50-42, at the end of the third period. The Lions then padded it to 65-50 in the final two minutes.

Retaga held a one-man rally in the final quarter, drilling 10 consecutive points—including two of his five triples—during PCU's 14-4 run that pushed the Dolphins ahead, 78-71, midway in the fourth quarter.

Veteran swingman Robert Sanz, who finished with 13 points, then fired a triple for PCU's first double-digit lead, 83-73, three minutes remaining.

"The boys have high morale because of our win the last time. I told them that if we can beat Perpetual, we can beat the others," said coach Loreto Tolentino, whose team surprised the Altas five days ago.

In junior play, the Red Cubs mercilessly trampled the winless Altalettes with an 86-point rout, 132-46, for their ninth consecutive victory. Earlier, brothers Alan and James Mangahas combined for 46 points as the Baby Dolphins subdued the Robins, 77-63, to keep solo second with a 7-2 card. The Robins dropped to 2-7.

The scores:

First Game (Jrs)

PCU 77—A. Mangahas 23, J. Mangahas 20, Al-Hussaini 15, Dela Torre 5, Flores 4, Molino 3, Sarangay 2, Guidaben 2, Dy 2, Bunoan 1.

MAPUA 63—Claravall 15, Ramos 12, Parcon 10, Fouad Khalil 9, Abangan 9, Faundo 7, Obra 1.

Quarters: 23-10, 40-18, 55-41, 77-63.

Second Game (Srs)

PCU 91—Retaga 26, Castro 19, Espinas 18, Sanz 13, Solis 7, Cecilia 3, Belga 3, Salansang 2.

MAPUA 79—Sta. Maria 22, Guevarra 15, Sumalinog 11, Veranga 10, Del Rosario 6, Gonzales 5, Tiongco 4, Salud 4, Co 2.

Quarters: 20-17, 41-44, 64-66, 91-79.

Third Game (Jrs)

SAN BEDA 132—Menor 20, Martinez 18, Hermida 17, Ferrer 12, Taganas 12, Guillermo 11, Principe 10, Espinosa 8, Ventosa 7, Cruz 6, Victorino 6, Tecson 5.

PERPETUAL 46—Adriano 10, Panganiban 10, San Diego 10, Perez 9, Sandig 3, Jardiel 2, Torres 2.

Quarters: 29-15, 64-25, 98-39, 132-46.

Fourth Game (Srs)

SAN BEDA 66—Cordero 14, Bombeo 13, Cruz 7, Arbole 7, Angeles 6, Paterno 6, Bughao 5, Hudencial 5, Soriano 3.

PERPETUAL 52—Bauzon 14, Cuenco 11, Javier 10, Refuerzo 10, Apor 5, Barnson 2, Misa 0, Mendoza 0.

Quarters: 15-12, 36-25, 50-42, 66-52.

STANDINGS	W	L
Perpetual	6	3
Letran	5	3
SSC	5	3
Mapua	5	4
PCU	5	4
San Beda	5	4
JRU	3	5
St. Benilde	0	8

GAMES TOMORROW
(*Rizal Coliseum*)
11:30 a.m.—Letran vs JRU (Jrs)
2 p.m.—Letran vs JRU (Srs)
4 p.m.—SSC vs St. Benilde (Srs)
6 p.m.—SSC vs St. Benilde (Srs)

King Tamaraw Santos leads UAAP MVP race

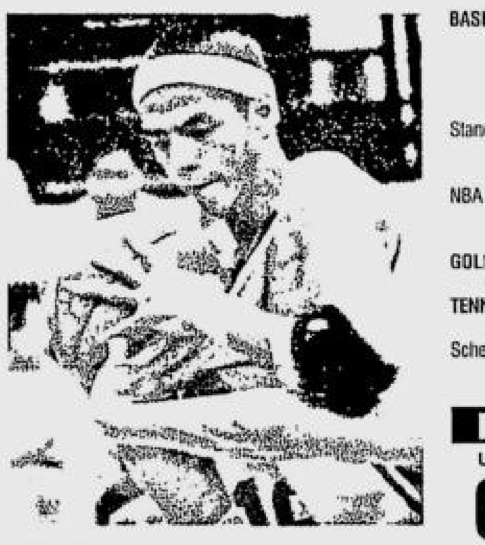
FAR Eastern University's main man Arwind Santos led the race for the Most Valuable Player award at the end of the first round in the UAAP men's basketball tournament.

Last year's Finals MVP topped both the scoring and rebounding departments with 15.1 points and 9.7 rebounds per game.

Adamson's sophomore center Ken Bono took second spot with 14.1 ppg and 7.6 rpg.

Rounding out the league's top five scorers are La Salle's Mac Cardona with 14.1 points, University of the East's Paolo Hubalde with 14, and University of Sto. Tomas' Christian Luanzon with 13.9.

Ateneo, which took the top spot with a 7-0 record at the end of the round, only had L.A. Tenorio figuring in the statistical race. The senior playmaker averaged 12 points and led in assists with 5.6. *Jasmine W. Payo*



SANTOS: Strong in scoring and rebounding. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

SPORTS TV

Compiled by L. Manguiat

BASKETBALL: USAB World Tour; 8 a.m. (r-10 p.m.): Solar Sports—The US takes on Turkey in this tune-up for the Olympics.
Standing Tall; 10 a.m. (r-7 p.m.): Solar Sports—Learn more about the career of former New York center Patrick Ewing.
NBA Greatest Game—Sixers vs Celtics, Game 7, 1982 Eastern Finals; 11 a.m.; Solar Sports—Relive this classic do-or-die duel between Philadelphia and Boston.
GOLF: LPGA Jamie Farr Owens Corning Classic; 3:30 p.m. (r); ESPN—Catch the replay of the final round of this LPGA event.
TENNIS: Western & Southern Financial Group Masters Highlights; 6:30 p.m.; ESPN - Take a look at best moments from Cincinnati, Ohio.
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4 DAYS TO ATHENS

RP bets raise flag in Athletes' Village today

ATHENS—The Philippines will be welcomed into the 28th Olympic Games today (Tuesday) during a 30-minute flag-raising ceremony at the International Zone of the Athletes' Village here.

Except for those who have yet to arrive, all members of the 34-man, Accel-outfitted RP delegation, led by chef de mission Steve Hontiveros, will attend the rites in their track suits. The group has also been allowed to invite 30 guests, who will be given special passes.

The ceremony is set at 6 p.m.

Meanwhile, long jump specialist Lerma Bulauitan-Gabito and her coach, Joseph Sy, arrived Monday morning from Manila, but the other RP entry in athletics, Eduardo Buenavista, has opted to delay his trip.

"He's coming only on Aug. 20," Sy explained. "*Mas gusto niyang mag-train sa atin* (He prefers to train at home)."

The 4-foot-11 Buenavista is entered in the marathon scheduled on Aug. 29, last day of the 28th Olympic Games which start on Friday, Aug. 13.

Gabito hopes to improve on her personal best of 6.56 meters, which is actually better than the 6.52m Southeast Asian Games record held by the retired Elma Muros-Posadas.

ATHENS 2004

"The weather is not going to be a problem," said Gabito. "*Mukhang mas mainit pa sa atin* (It looks hotter back home). I hope I can be in top condition when I compete."

Sixteen Filipino athletes are vying in the Games, four less than the number of RP participants four years ago in Sydney, Australia. So far, 10 of them had already checked in at the spacious Athletes' Village.

These are swimmers Miguel Mendoza, Miguel Molina and Timmy Chua, boxers Harry Tañamor, Violito Payla, Romeo Brin and Christopher Camat, archer Jasmin Figueroa, shooter Jethro Dionisio and Gabito.

Fil-American swimmer James Bernard Walsh will fly in Tuesday, while the other Fil-Am tanker, Jacklyn Pangilinan, is slated to arrive Wednesday.

Philippine Olympic Committee president Celso L. Dayrit and secretary general Romeo Ribaño are flying in on Wednesday. Dayrit and Ribaño are not part of the RP delegation because they belong to the Olympic family. They are billeted in a hotel.

Dayrit has sent a message to the athletes already here through the RP secretariat, wishing them well and hoping they'd keep their focus on the Games.

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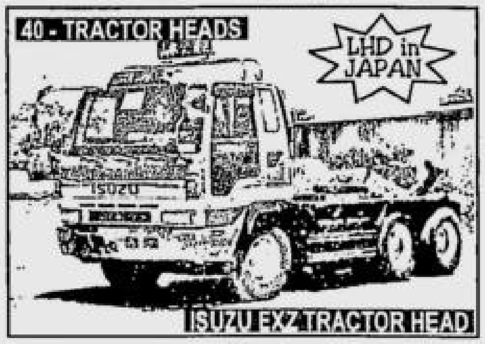

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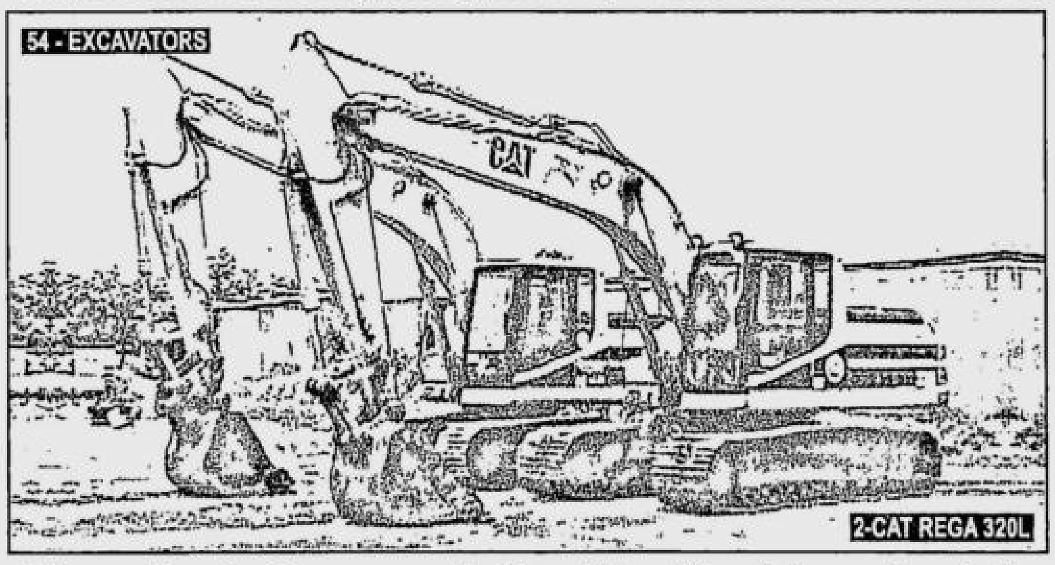

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Pacquiao expects tougher Barrera

MANNY Pacquiao is bracing for a tougher time in his rematch with Mexican ring icon Marco Antonio Barrera this November.

Expecting Barrera to be more cautious this time, Pacquiao believes their second fight will be more exacting, acknowledging that the Mexican is a skilled brawler.

"*Mas mahirap talagang kalaban si Barrera kaysa kay* (world featherweight champion Juan Manuel) Marquez. *Mas madami kasing suntok at madiskarte si* Barrera (It's harder to fight Barrera than Marquez. Barrera has many punches and is a better tactician)," said Pacquiao.

The 26-year-old Filipino boxing hero scored a stunning 11th-round TKO win over Barrera last Nov. 16 at the Alamodome in Texas.

Local trainer Buboy Fernandez concurred with Pacquiao's observation, noting that Barrera has shown marked improvement during his last fight against Paulie Ayala last June 19. Barrera convincingly beat Ayala in 10 rounds.

"*Ibang-iba ang kilos niya ngayon kumpara noong laban nila noon ni* Manny (He moves differently now than when he fought Manny)," said Fernandez. ***Marlon Bernardino, Contributor***

Eala paves way for All-Star Week

THE PBA is going South.

Led by Commissioner Noli Eala, the first batch of the 146-man Philippine Basketball Association entourage flies this morning to Cebu City which will host this year's Annual All-Star Week.

Eala and Co. are expected to arrive at the Cebu airport on board Cebu Pacific Airline at 10 a.m. and will be welcomed by Patrick Gregorio, head of the Cebu Visitors and Convention Bureau, which helped the PBA organize the affair.

The delegation's arrival marks the start of the activities. Players and officials will hold a motorcade around the city before visiting two elementary schools and a home for street children.

"This is the first time the PBA is holding this annual affair for one whole week and we picked Cebu as host because we acknowledge this city as the Mecca of basketball in the South," Eala said. "This undertaking will truly be a memorable one."

The 36-man group includes 17 skills events participants who will conduct outreach programs. Among them are Mike Cortes and Brandon Cablay of Alaska, Renren Ritualo, Mark Pingris and Wesley Gonzales of FedEx, Anthony de la Cruz and Michael Hrabak of Shell, Mick Pennisi, Topex Robinson and Cyrus Baguio of Red Bull Barako.

To ensure the success of the festivities sponsored by Talk 'N Text and supported by Gran Matador, Accel, Viva Mineral Water, Air 21, McDonalds and Cebu Pacific, the PBA secretariat flew a day ahead of the Commissioner's group.

Golf pros threaten to break away

Unless PGAP mess is solved

By Musong R. Castillo

THE TROUBLE in the board of the Professional Golfers Association of the Philippines seems to be nearing an end after the general assembly yesterday voted to form an auditing committee to resolve alleged financial irregularities.

This developed as a group of players, led by Danny Zarate and Carito Villaroman, threatens to break away from the association to protect their interests.

Close to 100 PGAP members gathered at the Manila Southwoods in Carmona, Cavite, in a meeting called by treasurer Tony Arevalo and attended by the camp of president Romulo Negrido.

Barbs were thrown but after the smoke cleared, the PGAP's warring sides agreed to set up a seven-man committee composed of Negrido, Arevalo, Fred Superal, Marco Nadales, Bojie Villarde, Felix Fernando and former president Jun Bustamante.

Bustamante was elected to chair the committee, which will meet on Thursday at the Club Intramuros to begin tracing funds said to be missing from the PGAP coffers.

"This seems to be the best solution," said Negrido, who came into the meeting with photocopies of the liquidation receipts which Arevalo had wanted to see. The envelope containing the receipts was not opened, however.

Trouble in the PGAP started when Arevalo, the caddy turned millionaire businessman, asked Negrido to show receipts for his cash advances from January to March.

"The committee is just a delaying tactic on their part," said Arevalo. "I would like the whole association to see what's inside (the envelope) so we can get to the bottom of this."

Fed up with the recriminations in the association, however, Zarate, Villaroman and scores of other pros have called for freedom to run their own affairs.

Zarate said they have gathered "a big number of signatures" in their call to form a separate group to protect their interests.

"There is nothing that can prevent us from doing this," Zarate said. "We have given them the time to settle their differences.

"It's all about the money in the qualifying events. The qualifying events cater mostly to Koreans and other foreigners. These foreigners find it easy to qualify because they have the money."

RICH HAUL
A.R. Ramos shows off the trophies he won in two recent tournaments—including the Pepsi World Little People Golf Championship—on his arrival Saturday from the United States. The 7-year-old student at La Salle Greenhills also finished second in the Callaway Junior World in San Diego, California.
ROGER MARGALLO

CEU five blasts New Era

CENTRO Escolar University brought down New Era University, 74-63, to bounce back into contention in the National Athletic Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities (Naascu) basketball tournament before a big home crowd at the CEU gym.

The Scorpions drew balanced scoring attack from June Macasaet, Almer Cristobal, Frederick Salamat, Deo Carillo and Alvin Dayag to clinch their second win in five matches in this nine-team tourney.

The scores:

CEU 74—Macasaet 20, Cristobal 14, Salamat 9, Carillo 9, Dayag 7, J. Romulo 4, Bacsal 4, F. Romulo 3, Manajero 2, Cordero 2.

NEW ERA 63—De Guzman 16, Gascon 15, Ramos 14, Ibay 9, Alastre 3, Maynes 3, Lapid 2, Perlas 2.

Quarters: 19-16, 37-34, 59-45, 74-63.

SPORTSWATCH

Magallanes, Laceste top Shell NCR chess

REY Jomar Magallanes shocked top seed Christian Arroyo in the sixth round then drew his match with Ivan Gil Biag in the final round to top the National Capital Region leg of the Shell National Youth Active Chess Championships at Cyberzone at SM Megamall in Mandaluyong City Sunday. Magallanes, ranked fourth in the juniors division of the event sponsored by Pilipinas Shell, closed out the seven-round Swiss system tournament with 6.5 points, nipping Biag and Melvin Palomata in the tiebreak for the top purse of P5,000 and a slot in the grand finals of this annual championship among the country's top junior and kiddie players. The second-seeded Biag of Dasmariñas, Cavite, won P4,000 for finishing second, while Palomata trounced Jordan Canada to claim third place honors and the P3,000 prize. Ellan Asuela downed Jose Ocampo in the final round to finish with six points and beat six others, including Arroyo, in the tiebreak for the fourth and last spot in the national finals set later this month. In kiddies' play, top seed Loren Brigham Laceste bagged the crown and the P4,000 prize as he swept the seven-round event, capping his domination with a final-round victory over Eugene Samonte. He towed three others to the grand finals, including Jan Jodilyn Fronda, Revin Vasallo and Samonte, who wound up with six points and nipped 10 others in the tiebreak for the last berth. Fronda and Vasallo finished with identical 6.5 points. GM Eugene Torre joined Roberto Kanapi, Pilipinas Shell general manager for external affairs, and Mandaluyong City Vice Mayor Jesse C. Cruz in the awards rites.

D-DAY IN BELGIUM
Filipino Glenn Aguilar flashes the "thumbs-up" following a brief practice session at the 3.9-km Namur track in Belgium, site of the FIM World Motocross Championships. Aguilar, Asia's No. 1 rider and its lone representative to the event, begins his bid today in the MX2 category, where 85 of the world's greatest riders, including Belgian world champion Stefan Everts, are entered.

Ildefonso scores fourth ace

SPORTSCASTER Dick Ildefonso scored a hole-in-one last Sunday on the 173-yard 18th hole of the Shell Taclobo course in Batangas City during their club tournament. Ildefonso used a Callaway GBB 3 metal wood and a Titleist No. 3 ball in achieving the feat while playing with former Petron VP Apolinario "June" Reyes, engineer John Jao of JGC Phils. and Shell's Art Espiritu. Ildefonso is president of the Kapisanan ng mga Golfers sa Brodkast (KGB). This was his fourth ace.

Bacolod bet rules MCC active tourney

ELEVENTH-RANKED Jerry Ausan trounced No. 27 Silvestre Paragas in 36 moves of a French Defense in the seventh and final round Sunday to rule the August edition of the MCC Unrated active chess tournament held at the J&F Divino Building in Quezon City. The 32-year-old Ausan, who comes from Bacolod, wound up with six points on five wins and two draws to claim his first MCC title and the P2,000 champion's purse. Tied for second with 5.5 points apiece were 26th seed Ferdinand Paet and 12th seed Danny Azucena of Marikina. Paet defeated Francisco Escora while Azucena downed Ryan Dungca in the final round. Paet and Azucena shared the pooled P2,500 prize. In fourth to sixth places with 5.0 points each were Escora, Paragas and Elden Agulan. The next MCC one-day events are the 2050-below on Aug. 21, unrated active (1800 below) on Aug. 22. For inquiries, call 826-8560 or 0916-8521069 and 4358412.

Derby regulars vying at Sta. Ana today

A TOTAL of 117 matches are on tap when the 3-Cock Daytime Derby unfolds today at Sta. Ana Cockpit along AP Reyes Avenue in Makati City. Derby regulars from different cockpits are vying in the event, which will start at 2 p.m., according to derby hosts Kags Paliza and Aba Badiola. A guaranteed prize pot of P350,000 is at stake, and a brand-new owner-type jeep will go to the fastest kill champion. Ten mountain bikes await the runner-up finishers. Among the participants are Butch Nuñez and Edgar Coronel of Pasig Square Garden, Ching Morales, Cito Manansala and Rey Cabial of Pasay Cockpit, Capt. Emil Chua, Cesar Guce and Gerald Go of Sta. Ana, Nat Mendoza, Jun Llovido, Raffy Bernal and Jimmy Santos of Mandaluyong Coliseum, Nestor Dichoso of San Pedro, Johnny Elorde Stadium, Carding Manalo of Biñan, and Alma Pineda of Pateros. Entry fee is P5,500. For inquiries, call 8983474 and 8983475. Regular hackfights are held at Sta. Ana Cockpit every Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

JW-FED LEAGUE GOLF

N'woods, Canlubang forge title duel

ROYAL Northwoods and Canlubang, two teams that never went as far as the first round of the playoffs in the past, will dispute the Johnnie Walker Federation Golf League championship.

The Northwoods squad from San Rafael, Bulacan, ended the championship hopes of powerhouse Manila Southwoods over the weekend by dominating its home-and-away semifinal matchup to reach the title showdown on its third try.

A 3-1 shocker by Northwoods at Southwoods laid the foundation for the rout which was completed by the gritty Bulakeños with a 2.5-1.5 victory at home the next day.

And Canlubang made it one of the oddest title pairings in league history by denying Alabang a return trip to the finals. The score was 5-3 with the Sweeties also winning both matches.

Canlubang, in the playoffs for the first time of the tournament also sponsored by Smart Communications and Pagcor, exploited the absence of Alabang top gun Iggy Clavecilla to take the bestball match and a 2.5-1.5 decision at home.

Clavecilla rejoined his team on a rainy Sunday but his partnership with Danny Sarmiento still lost to Abe Rosal-JR Banzon, 4 and 3.

Jimmy Feliciano and Charlie Carmona didn't give Seve Roxas Chua-Caloy Coscolluela a chance and scored a 3 and 2 win that sealed Alabang's fate after the alternate-shot match pitting Bing Bunyi-Yoshihiko Akasaka and Buddy Velayo-Francis Jimenez ended in a draw.

Two of the country's finest young talents—Putra Cup-bound Michael Bibat and Tonlits Asistio—could not rescue Southwoods in the tie.

Needing just 1.5 points to win the match after the victory at Southwoods, Danny Dalija-Boy Unson (alternate) and Rodel Mangulabnan-Richard Joson (high-low) got the job done with a draw and win in their respective matches.

The Anchor a.k.a. Lovable Angel

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

A BOXER can score knockouts in succession if he is that good. There were lots of them: Louis, Marciano, Patterson, Liston, Ali, Frazier, Foreman and Tyson, to name a few.

In basketball, one can also score winning shots in succession if he is also that good. Chamberlain. Russell. West. Jabbar. Magic. Shaq. Bird. Jordan. Bryant. Even Horry, whose last-second treys have helped make Los Angeles an NBA champion a number of times. Theirs was the stuff that churns legends out of the NBA hardcourt.

Lately, on the home front, a guy named LA Tenorio is fast emerging as the nation's new rescue artist.

In America, they call 911 for emergency.

At Ateneo, they call LA for that.

LA has recently done something extraordinary, if not "Houdinish," not once but twice to save Ateneo from the jaws of defeat.

First, he banged home a triple to break a 55-all count near the buzzer and give Ateneo a 58-55 victory over Adamson. That was on July 31.

Then, on Aug. 8, he duplicated the feat, sinking another triple from the same spot—the left quarter court—to shatter a 62-all tie for a 65-62 Ateneo lead. It was his fifth for the night en route to a total of 26 game-high points.

It was so magical a shot that the roar it drew was so loud it echoed from the walls of the Cubao Big Dome all the way to Camp Aguinaldo. Good thing it was a Sunday, when offices were closed. Otherwise, Defense Secretary Ermita, who holds office at Camp Aguinaldo Monday to Saturday, would have thought the roar was from an advancing, tank-backed crowd gone ballistic out to liberate the Oakwood mutineers from their prison cells. God knows what might have happened next.

LA's shot came at the 24.4-second mark. Plenty of time left for Far Eastern University to mount a counteroffensive.

But after FEU had threatened at 64-65, Chris Tiu quickly stepped in to preserve Tenorio's trey, tossing in two freethrows off Dennis Miranda's foul, 67-64, with just 8 seconds remaining. FEU had one last shot, but it was a dud from near the centerline.

With the win, Ateneo is now 7-0, the only unbeaten team in the eight-team UAAP series. As a result, Ateneo has swept first-round play of the league's 67th season now being aired by Studio 23 through the indefatigable supervision of TV wonder kid Peter Musngi. Not since 1988 did Ateneo achieve such a feat.

After the game, LA was again reminded by a sportswriter of the heavy load he was tasked to carry after the departure of Ateneo team captain Larry Fonacier. Fonacier suffered a season-ending knee injury three Ateneo games ago.

LA was consistent with his answers.

"That shot was for Larry," LA said of his winning triple against Adamson.

Against FEU this Sunday after his insurance trey, LA said: "I guess we are adjusting little by little. It's hard playing without Larry. The pressure will continue mounting, especially now that we have swept the first round."

He was just being objective.

Ballyhooed as the star of the season until he suffered that ACL injury against University of the Philippines in Ateneo's Game 4, Fonacier was really the heart and soul of Ateneo in pregame forecasts. With him gone, only a few had been predicted to fill in Fonacier's shoes: Magnum Membrere, JC Intal and, yes, LA Tenorio. While Magnum and JC have really been contributing a lot to Ateneo's cause—include Paolo Bugia, of course—it is LA so far who has been manning the I.C.U. for Ateneo, if not the school's fire department.

If America has ghost-busters, Ateneo has the guess-buster. Since the season began, it has been LA's passion to bust notions there is a Houdini for Ateneo other than him.

If Iverson is The Answer in the NBA, LA is The Anchor in the UAAP. And to think that, yes, coincidentally, LA idolizes Iverson from the head to the ground.

"LA really took on the responsibilities that we gave him," said Ateneo rookie coach Sandy Arespacochaga, who, if Ateneo proceeds to win its second UAAP title in three years, may yet turn out to be the first Ateneo alumnus to emerge champion coach of both the Ateneo junior and senior teams after a long, long while. Or, has anyone achieved that feat already?

Pray, tell me, Fr. Tito C?

But this you've got to know, fellas.

There's one aspect hidden in the façade of LA that should make Ateneo eternally proud of him, particularly Fr. Nebres. LA is a true-blue Atenean that if you cut his skin, blue would be the color of his blood.

Listen, fellas. Even before the UAAP could begin this year, several PBA scouts had tried to lure LA into joining the PBA Draft: He was promised heaven and earth. He refused.

You know, there's now a dearth of good point guards in the league.

The scouts reworded their script to LA.

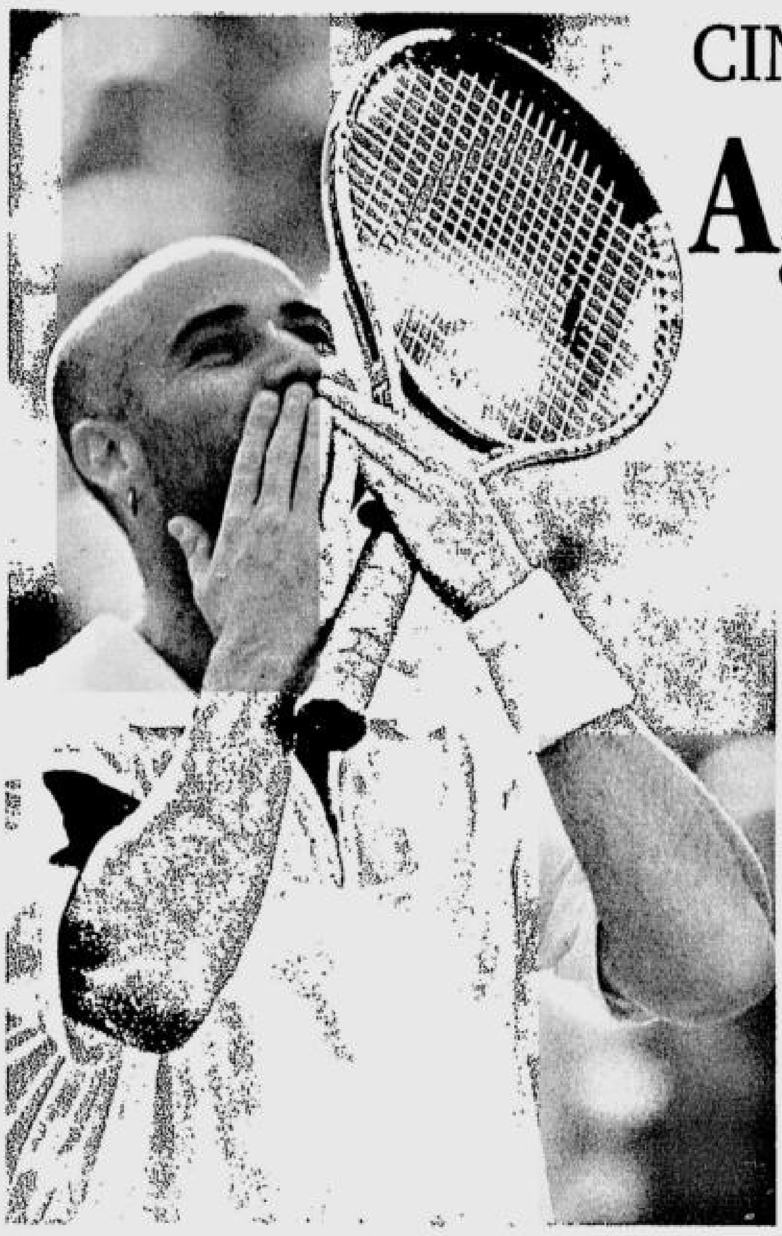
OK, you finish the 67th UAAP season. Complete your course (inter-disciplinary studies) by the summer of 2005 and we could put you in the PBA's July Draft.

Still, LA refused. The kid from Nasugbu, Batangas, born July 9, 1984, who wolfs down on *kalderetang baka* that his housewife-mother cooks for him once a week, is sticking to his vow: Play five years for Ateneo. This season is the penultimate for LA, the son of a humble building administrator.

In this world that has now practically favored crass commercialism over crafty professionalism, LA, only barely 5-foot-8, towers among his peers.

If I could only change the meaning of LA (Luis Antonio), I'd make LA stand for Lovable Angel.

Love Ateneo would be corny.



AGASSI blows a kiss to the crowd after beating Hewitt in the final match of the Western and Southern Financial Group Masters Sunday at the Lindner Family Tennis Center in Cincinnati, Ohio. AFP

CINCINNATI FINAL

Agassi ends title drought

MASON, Ohio—Andre Agassi ended a 16-month title drought when he beat Lleyton Hewitt, 6-3, 3-6, 6-2, in the final of the Cincinnati Masters on Sunday.

"This certainly gives me a new life," 11th-seeded Agassi said. "I came into this week with a lot of questions. So for me to end up winning was beyond what I could have expected."

Agassi, who knocked out defending champion Andy Roddick on Saturday, completed his 59th career victory—the most of any active player—when 10th-seeded Hewitt double-faulted on match point.

"It's been a tough 24 hours, but my body held up great," said the 34-year-old Agassi.

His first title since April 2003 eased some of the frustration that had been building since Agassi had to skip Wimbledon because of an inflamed hip.

"The last few months, there has been a lot of disappointment," said Agassi, who maintained a rigorous training regimen even when he wasn't playing tennis.

"I came into this week, arguably, at my lowest moment. Now I'm looking to reap the rewards of the work."

Agassi broke Hewitt's serve three times, after Hewitt had been broken only once in five matches.

"He hit a lot of first serves and a lot of serves right on the line and corners and stuff," Hewitt said. "I just couldn't get into his service games."

Hewitt, who also lost in the 2002 final, had problems with his serve in the first set. With Agassi leading 3-2, Hewitt was serving 40-0 but lost four straight points before rallying to tie the set at 3. Two games later, he lost the first point by double-faulting, then hit the deciding point into the net to put Agassi up 5-3.

Still, Agassi had trouble putting away the set. Serving 15-40, he won the next four points, including a 120-mph (193-kph) ace.

In the second set, Hewitt broke Agassi to take a 5-3 lead. Agassi seemed to be regaining the pinpoint placement which had improved with each match, but his shot on game point was a fraction wide, and Hewitt raised his fists to his chest and let out a scream. The Australian served out to even the sets and thought he had the momentum to beat Agassi. *AP*

Amazing Amelie triumphs in style

MONTREAL—France's Amelie Mauresmo, the second seed, overpowered Elena Likhovtseva, 6-1, 6-0, in the final of the $1.3 million WTA Montreal hard court tournament on Sunday.

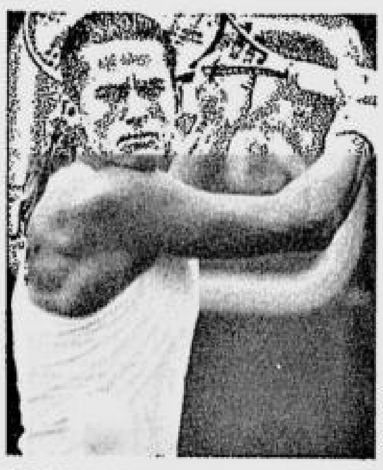
Mauresmo needed just 51 minutes to register her third win of the year and the 13th of her career. It was also the second time in three years she has won in Canada.

The unseeded Likhovtseva rolled through the previous rounds en route to the final, scoring upsets over American Jennifer Capriati in the quarters and compatriot Anastasia Myskina in the semis.

She had defeated No. 8 Nadia Petrova of Russia in the second round, No. 11 Francesca Schiavone of Italy in the third round.

Mauresmo, who became the favorite here when top-seeded Serena Williams was forced to withdraw due to a knee injury, recorded her first win of the year on hard courts. In May, Mauresmo won both the German Open and Italian Masters on clay.

On Sunday, Mauresmo and Likhovtseva got in two-thirds of their first serves but the Russian won just 37 percent of the points on her first serve while Mauresmo won 72 percent. *AFP*



REUTERS

MAURESMO: 51 minutes of work

ROMANCING THE RED DEVIL

5 Filipinos get feel of racing a Ferrari

ANTON, Magbanua, Jimenez, Lopez and Thomann get the rare Formula One experience at the Varano Circuit-Parma in Mougellio, Italy.

THE EXPERIENCE was a dream-come-true for five Filipinos—five days of romance with the red speedster.

When they came back to tell it all, the first batch of Filipinos to attend the Marlboro Red Racing School in Italy last month felt as if they all left their hearts out in the vast, impressive facility in Mougellio.

The five—Carlos Anton, Ian Magbanua, Ricky Jimenez, Jeena Lopez and Mark Thomann—went to the Land of the Ferrari, courtesy of Philip Morris Philippines Manufacturing Inc., to experience the sights and sounds of the town's Varano Circuit-Parma.

"That's my ultimate dream," said the 34-year-old Anton, a veteran race-car driver. "To make it to this (selection process) and go to the heart and soul of Ferrari, to get to ride an F1 car, to be able to compete with drivers from different countries, it's just fantastic!"

"There's not enough money to buy the experience," said Thomann, the youngest in Team Philippines at 24. "You can be a multimillionaire but never go inside Ferrari."

But, as Thomann said, you can't be a part of what they went through in Italy if you didn't join the tough Marlboro Red Racing preliminaries last year.

Anton, Thomann and the rest of the team were welcomed back by Philip Morris managing director Chris Nelson, Marlboro brand manager Jasper Evangelista and marketing director Maarten Kila.

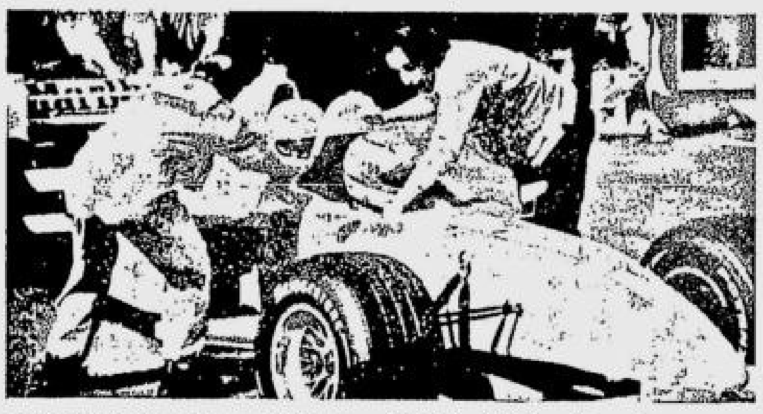
From the initial batch of applicants that numbered in the thousands and got to test their F1 knowledge via a text-in contest sponsored by Marlboro late last year, the organizers trimmed the hopefuls to 100.

And out of the 100 that went through tests like the treasure hunt and kart racing session at the Ayala Center as well as pit-stop simulations and endurance races, Anton, Thomann, Magbanua, Jimenez and Lopez booked the ultimate trip to Ferrari and Shumacher land.

"My first 10 questions were no-brainers, so I thought it was easy," Anton admitted. "After that, the really hard ones came one after the other."

But everything became one smooth ride after this for the five.

Business-class trip to Bologna. Five-star accommodation. Five-course meals. Dinner at the favorite restaurant of F1 king Michael Schumacher and at the restaurant owned by Luciano Pavarotti. Exclusive trips to the Ferrari Museum and the Ferrari factory.



Prime amenities in all. And there was still the main course, served on the penultimate day of the event: riding with F1 driver Nicolas Kiesa and F1 test driver Mateo Bobbi in an F1 two-seater.

"When you see those cars on TV, of course they're fast," said Lopez, 34. "The feeling of speed, you really don't know. But when you sit in the car, you feel it. It pulls your head and back."

"After the fourth day, one thing I really had for F1 drivers was respect," said Magbanua, 29. "I went three laps and I wanted to go back to the pits. And considering that the cars the drivers use are more powerful than the ones we used. It's amazing what they do."

"We hit 302 kph in just 782 meters, and that's not even the full route," said Thomann.

Team Philippines also took home five of 11 trophies in three categories. Anton took a first place and third place in the GT Autocross Race using an Alfa 147 GTA while Thomann finished second once and third once.

Lopez bagged a special award for being the lone female from five participating countries, which also include the Czech Republic, Greece, Paraguay and Uruguay, to make it to the finals.

The five acknowledged that their camaraderie during the Italian trip was special.

"We left with a heavy heart," said Jimenez, also 34. "When I got back here, I couldn't sleep for a week. We were very happy to be there together."

US five thwarts Turkey

ISTANBUL—The US men's basketball team beat Turkey, 79-67, on Sunday, fighting off a late challenge from the hosts as they looked to build up momentum ahead of the Olympic Games later this month.

Tim Duncan was top scorer for the US with 16 points, followed by Allen Iverson with 13, while Lamar Odom scored nine and Richard Jefferson added eight.

The US team has made steady progress since its 95-78 thrashing at the hands of Italy last Tuesday.

They narrowly beat Germany, 80-77, and then put in their most impressive performance of their European tour to beat Serbia and Montenegro, 78-60.

However, Sunday's game against a largely young and inexperienced Turkish side showed they have more work to do if they are to live up to the high expectations which come with the "dream team" tag and win the gold medal in Athens.

Turkey appeared overawed in the early stages, committing too many turnovers and missing shots to end the half down, 41-29.

They fought back strongly in the second half, narrowing the deficit to three points with a little over three minutes left. *Reuters*

Sorenstam rips course record, wins HP Open for fourth time

SORENSTAM

STOCKHOLM, Sweden—Annika Sorenstam made two eagles in a course-record 8-under-par 64 for a two-stroke victory on Sunday at the HP Open—a short drive from where the Hall of Fame golfer grew up.

Sorenstam won the event for the fourth time. She was two shots behind entering the final round and finished at 13-under 275 on the tough lakeside layout in Ullna.

"I was clearly disappointed how I played during the first two days," said Sorenstam, who last played the course as an amateur 15 years ago. "I wanted to show what I can, especially in front of the home fans."

Her performance in the Ladies European Tour event followed a 13th-place showing at the British Open a week ago. The Swede has 69 titles worldwide, including seven majors.

Countrywoman Carin Koch, who shared the lead with Becky Morgan of Wales entering Sunday, closed with a 68 and for a 277. Morgan (70) was at 279 and Scotland's Janice Moodie (68) was at 280.

Sorenstam's first eagle came on the long fourth hole, where she nearly missed a double-eagle. Sorenstam then eagled the 12th, another par 5.

Sorenstam complained about fatigue earlier this week but felt inspired before the last round. She bettered the previous record by three shots. *AP*

Stars hire 3 ex-pros to check skid

Standings: North—Baguio (3-1), Laguna (4-2), Batangas (3-3), Taguig (3-5). **South**—Cebu (4-1), Ozamis (3-3), Iloilo (5-5), C. de Oro (0-5).

CAGAYAN DE ORO—In a bid to arrest their decline, the Cagayan de Oro Stars (0-5) have signed up ex-pros Randy Alcantara, Jovy Sese, Zaldy Realubit and former St. Benilde point guard Elvis Tolentino, beating the recruiting deadline Sunday.

Only Alcantara and Sese, however, will see action for the Stars against Southern Division leader Tribu Sugbu on Tuesday in the NBC (National Basketball Championship) finals at 7 p.m. at the Xavier University gym here.

Realubit and Tolentino, on the other hand, will join the Stars in their northern swing next week in the tournament sponsored by Panasonic, Spring Cooking Oil, PCSO, Cebu Ferries, Air Philippines, Sulpicio Lines, Nature's Spring Mineral Water, Supercat, Accel and Molten.

The Tribes of Cebu businessmen Lito Gilliamac Jr., Albert Tan and Dr. Kelly Vidao are on a two-game roll and will try to fortify their hold of top spot in the South and earn a bye until the division finals of the playoffs.

The NBC games can be seen every Sunday in the NBC Game of the Week on NBN 4 at 4 p.m. and also on Prime Channel on Mondays (8 a.m.), Fridays (8 a.m. and 2 p.m.), Saturday (1 p.m.) and Sundays (9 a.m. and 7 p.m.).

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Olympic Trivia:

THE OLYMPIC RINGS

According to most accounts, the rings were adopted by Baron Pierre de Coubertin after he saw a similar design on an artifact from Ancient Greece. The 5 rings represent the 5 major regions of the world: Africa, the Americas, Asia, Europe and Oceania. Every national Flag in the world includes one of the five colours, which are blue, yellow, black, green, and red.

Catch all the action from Aug 13 to 29 on NBN 4

Surprise hit inspires more recordings from SMC Orchestra

By Leah C. Salterio
Contributor

FOUR years ago, Maestro Ryan Cayabyab sat down in an exploratory meeting with San Miguel Corp. (SMC) chair Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr. The business tycoon wanted to put up a professional orchestra so that the food conglomerate could give back something to the people, especially those who have been loyal to SMC products. He felt the public deserved an orchestra that would make them proud to be Filipinos.

In 2001, the award-winning composer became the executive and artistic director of the San Miguel Foundation for the Performing Arts.

The foundation would be a staunch advocate of the preservation, performance and development of Filipino music, with a commitment to reach the highest standards of artistic excellence. This is the guiding force in the foundation's mission, vision and philosophy. It is also its focus and direction.

Cayabyab put together the 62-member San Miguel Philharmonic Orchestra (SMPO) and the 40-member San Miguel Master Chorale (SMMC).

"We want to play a leading role in the Philippine performing arts and become a major force in enriching Philippine music," says Cayabyab. "We want to set a new tradition of excellence in orchestral and choral arts. We want to bring pride and honor to the Philippines by becoming the best all-Filipino professional orchestra and choir in the country, in Asia and one of the best in the world."

He envisions the SMPO breaking away from the traditional view of the orchestra, which is often associated with classical music. "All over the world, orchestras are trying to diversify," he points out. "I decided to pursue a more active role in performing Filipino music. We can even play pedestrian tunes like 'Ocho-Ocho'."

He feels the SMPO has an edge over other orchestras in the country: It enjoys the support of a major corporation.

Surprise hit

"Most orchestras in the world are state-funded, because an orchestra is a showcase for a country or a city and mirrors the quality of art in that place," says Cayabyab. "The Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra should be enjoying the funding it deserves. Frustratingly enough, the PPO has no big funding. It has not expanded and developed its audience the way Singapore has done with its philharmonic orchestra."

The SMPO's repertoire ranges from Mozart, Dvorak and Rachmaninoff to Lloyd Webber and Hammerstein to San Pedro and, of course, Cayabyab.

In its three-year existence, the SMPO has presented numerous concerts and performed with top artists as part of its audience-development program. This year, it has branched out into recording. Before Holy Week, it released its maiden album, "The Sacred Works of Ryan Cayabyab," a double disc which also features the SMMC.

"We recorded 'Sacred Works' two years ago, but we did not release it publicly," Cayabyab shares. "It was meant only for the foundation. We decided it could be distributed commercially only after we did 'Great Filipino Love Songs.' The executives of BMG Records listened to 'Sacred Works' and convinced us to release it, too. I've developed a very nice working relationship with BMG Records. It will be difficult for me to think of other recording companies."

"Great Filipino Love Songs" has turned out to be a surprise hit. The CD album debuted at number two upon its release, overtaking pop or foreign mainstream hotshots such as Usher, Josh Groban, Maroon Five, Beyonce and Evanescence.

More recordings

On its second week, "Great Filipino Love Songs" shot up to the top of the charts of Tower Records and Music One stores, where it has remained for nearly four months now.

"Though we are very proud of our work, we never expected people to embrace it as they did," Cayabyab says of the CD. "This proves that the appeal of great OPM songs is timeless."

"Great Filipino Love Songs" features OPM classics performed by a full orchestra, a first in local recording history. The SMPO was conducted by Arnel Feliciano. The album includes "Maalaala Mo Kaya," "Dahil sa 'Yo," "Saan Ka Man Naroroon," "Buhat," "Hindi Kita Malimot" and "Gaano Ko Ikaw Kamahal."

MAESTRO C. Running the orchestra means a lifestyle change for Ryan Cayabyab.

The success of "Great Filipino Love Songs" has inspired the foundation to come up with more recordings. To be released next month is "Great Filipino Love Songs from the Movies," performed a capella by the SMMC. It will feature popular movie themes by George Canseco, Rey Valera, Willy Cruz, Louie Ocampo and Cayabyab.

In October, "Great Original Pilipino Music by Ryan" is set to hit the record stores. It will consist of 14 tracks performed by both the SMPO and the SMMC, like "Iduyan Mo," "Kahit Ika'y Panaginip," "Tuwing Umuulan" and "Limang Dipang Tao."

To be recorded next year is "Great Filipino Love Songs from the Islands," which will include folk songs like "Usahay," "Atin Cu Pung Singsing," "Sarungbanggi" and "Ay, Kalisud."

On track

For Cayabyab, taking on the San Miguel Foundation for the Performing Arts meant a "great change of lifestyle."

"Before, I would wake up in the morning with no particular agenda for the day, except when I was still teaching at the UP College of Music," he says. "But when I took on this job, I had to adjust. The transition took a while."

In October, the works of the 50-year-old Cayabyab will be showcased in a concert tribute at the Cultural Center of the Philippines, featuring the SMPO and the SMMC.

"I did not plan to do this job, like I didn't plan to be a TV host when I did 'Ryan, Ryan Musikahan' on ABS-CBN more than 10 years ago," says the artist who was called "Fingers" by the late Sammy Davis Jr. when they performed at Caesar's Palace in Las Vegas in the '80s, with Asia's Queen of Songs, Pilita Corrales.

Fulfilling the vision of the orchestra will take a long while, but Cayabyab is willing to stay the course.

"It will take years for us to be the best," he says. "We are not even in line as the best. The New York Symphony Orchestra took a century to get to the top. But we're still on track.

"We are trying to be a different orchestra," Cayabyab adds. Things don't happen as fast as you want them to happen. Time is an important element. Sometimes, even the best plans don't work, so you have to go back to the drawing board and start all over again."

Brazilian music, food at Merk's for 1 night only

MERK'S Bar Bistro sizzles this August as Trademerk Concepts Inc. and Tofu Music Inc., in cooperation with the Embassy of the Federative Republic of Brazil and Travel & Leisure Card, present "My Brazilian Passion with Brazilia."

The one-night-only event features Toti Fuentes on keyboard, Bo Razon on percussion, Michael Alba on drums and Soc Mina on bass, singers Rowena Michaels and Chai Alegarbes and Leonard Mabalot on guitar.

Groove to the beat of Brazilian music and enjoy Brazilian cuisine and cocktails on Monday, Aug. 23, 8 p.m. Dress code: All white with red accent.

The show is for the benefit of the Hope for the World Foundation Philippines. For reservations, call 757-4720, visit www.merksbarbistro.com or e-mail mail@merksbarbistro.com.

Now showing on Nickelodeon

SHOW TIME

THE FUN reels off when "All That" spoofs America's top idol search, and then two Amandas show up on "The Amanda Show."

In "100 Deeds for Eddie McDowd," Eddie finds a sack of money and quickly buries it. But a mysterious man comes looking for the loot.

"BeatNick!" features non-stop hits from your favorite stars, plus an artists-of-the-week segment, and more.

In the one-hour special, "The Adventures of Jimmy Neutron-Rescue Jet Fusion!," Jimmy Neutron gets enlisted as a spy by the Big Top Secret organization. For a chance to win a giant bag of Nick stuff, make sure you make a date with your TV on Aug. 29 at 6 p.m.

Catch your favorite Nicktoons in snoop-a-thon action, Aug. 14 to 15. Join the Rugrats, Arnold, Wild Thornberry and the gang from Rocket Power in rescuing friends from a life of "crime" and deciphering a mystery.

For younger viewers, Nick Jr. on Nickelodeon has the "Blue's Clues" gang cooking up a surprise party to celebrate good ol' Joe's birthday. Help Blue figure out what else is needed to get ready before Joe finds out.

Tune in to Nickelodeon or log on to www.nicksplat.com for exciting games, program highlights, events, surprises, lots of cool prizes and more.

'Crazy' over Javier

CLASSIC and unique best describes the new R&B singer/songwriter Javier and his self-titled album.

With "Javier," the 25-year-old prodigy not only displays his multi-instrument virtuosity but also proves he's not beholden to pop trends and radio formats.

His single "Crazy" was on the Top Five of several radio charts. His second single, "If I Never Get to Heaven," is currently being played on radio.

"Javier" simmers with musical twists, with stirring R & B ballads and mid-tempo funk as well as classic jazz and Latin grooves—hey, even rock. With influences like Donnie Hathaway, Stevie Wonder, Marvin Gaye and Sam Cooke, Javier—both the singer and the album—has something for every musical taste and mood.

Experience Javier's tapestry of sounds live in Manila as the Ayala malls present the rising R&B sensation. Javier will be performing on Aug. 20 at the Greenbelt 3 Park and on Aug. 21 at the Alabang Town Center, Corte de las Palmas. Both shows will start at 7 p.m. See for yourself why Javier is the new buzzword in R&Bville.

JAVIER live at Ayala malls

"Javier" is now out on CDs and cassette from EMI Philippines.

Gay flag flies over Iloilo City

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Iloilo City

TEN men and women, who were either gays and lesbians or straight, waved the huge flag in pink, red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo and violet inside the moviehouse. For the first time, the Rainbow Flag, the international gay community symbol, was unfurled in Iloilo City as Ilongos joined in the celebration of gay pride.

The ceremony opened Iloilo City's first-ever Pink Film Festival, which ran from July 30 to Aug. 1 at SM City. It was also the last leg of the 2nd International Gay and Lesbian Film and Video Festival that ran at SM Megamall in Mandaluyong City from June 15 to 22, the UP Film Institute on June 26-July 3, SM Manila on June 30-July 6, and SM Baguio on July 9-11.

"We are your sons, daughters, brothers, sisters, parents, teachers, priests...," said independent filmmaker Sam Prudente during the festival opening in Iloilo City.

Empowering

The festival was timed with the commemoration of 10 years of Lesbian, Gay, and Transgender Pride (LGTP) in the Philippines, said Oscar Atadero, national president of the Progressive Organization of Gays in the Philippines (ProGay). ProGay led the first LGTP march in the country and in Asia on June 26, 1994 at the Quezon City Memorial Circle.

Sponsored by the Mowelfund Film Institute, the National Commission for Culture and the Arts, ProGay and the Sine Ilonggo Film Society, the Iloilo festival featured some 25 critically acclaimed Filipino and international gay and lesbian films.

Among the films shown were classics like Lino Brocka's "Macho Dancer" and those by award-winning Ilonggo filmmaker, Nick Deocampo, who was also the festival director. His films included the documentary "Oliver," the prize-winning "The Sex Warriors and the Samurai," and the autobiographical "Private Wars" and

GAY/ A25

NESTOR P. BURGOS JR.

FESTIVAL director Deocampo (standing, second from left) with other organizers in Iloilo

Donald Trump, TV star

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

THEY call **Donald Trump** "The Donald" because, in the eyes of the denizens of the society-business world, he's *sui generis*, one of a kind, in a class all his own. Not because he's the richest entrepreneur around, but because he's been able to combine business savvy with celebrity cool.

Thanks to his blond good looks and *zaftig* spouses, "The Donald" and his exploits have long been the stuff of which lurid tabloid reports are made.

Some years ago, his business empire was threatened by major reversals. But, true to the mythic proportions of his image, he has been able to recover lost ground.

Looking a bit older and less of a golden boy now, Trump has added TV stardom to his long list of accomplishments. He hosts the new reality-game show, "The Apprentice," which is telecast every Monday at 8 p.m. on ABC-5.

We viewed the show recently, and saw its format was well-suited to Trump's reputation for being a tough boss and ruthless negotiator. The competitive element involved teams of young male and female hotshots fighting for the profitable plum of becoming his favored assistant in running his vast business empire.

The contestants were appropriately bright and tough, and did everything they could to meet the performance and "mission" targets Trump had set.

One daunting task was for the two teams to purchase a wide range of products that were difficult to secure from specialty shops scattered all over New York City.

Thus, the members of each team had to work closely together to perform the task assigned to them within the prescribed time limit.

The final deciding factor would be the savings that each team was able to make, by creatively thinking of ways to convince the people selling the products to lower their prices.

As it turned out, the women's team beat the pants off the guys, who wasted a lot of time playing macho games of one-upmanship instead of focusing their energies on the task at hand.

The women's team also trounced the men at other tasks, prompting Trump to complain that the male apprentices were giving all men in the business world a bad rep!

Predictably enough, the apprentice kicked out at the end of that particular telecast was a member of the male team. Oh, how the women exulted as they savored their prize for the week, a sumptuous dinner at Trump's favorite fine-dining restaurant—and at the table reserved exclusively for Trump, to boot.

Aside from its intramurals and occasional emotional outbursts, what makes "The Apprentice" a viewing treat is the informal but comprehensive practicum it provides for making it big in the business world.

The fact that it's The Donald who's handling the tutorial only makes the learning all the more rewarding.

Feedback

FROM JOSE Mari Maycacayan of Binangonan, Rizal: "Here are my choices of commendable TV shows and personalities: Shows—'Kontrobersyal,' 'Digital LG Challenge,' 'Jessica Soho Reports,' 'Salamat, Dok,' 'Ating Alamin,' 'Mangarap Ka,' 'At Your Service,' 'Art Angel,' 'Magandang Gabi, Bayan.'

"TV personalities—**Ces Drilon** in 'Pipol,' Dong Puno in 'Dong Puno Live,' **Mel Tiangco** in '24 Oras,' **Dyan Castillejo** and **Marc Nelson** in 'Sports Unlimited,' **Gerry Geronimo** in 'Ating Alamin,' **Boy Abunda** in 'Kontorbersyal,' Love Añover in 'Lovely Day,' **Kris Aquino** in 'Good Morning, Kris' and **Winnie Monsod** and **Oscar Orbos** in 'Debate.'

'Romansa ni Magno Rubio'

DON'T miss Tanghalang Pilipino's staging of **Connie Carter's** "Ang Romansa ni Magno Rubio" (translated by **Joi Barrios**) at the CCP's Tanghalang Aurelio Tolentino starting on Aug. 13. **Loy Arenas** directs. Call 832-1125 or 832-3661.

North

THE NEW Australian boy band, North, has released its self-titled debut album. The carrier song, "Glory of Love," is enjoying good airplay on local FM pop stations.

Cuts include "The Day Before," "It's Monday Again," "Better Off Without You," "I Won't Hold Back," "Again," "Lie to You" and "Am I your Only Man?"

Tin-tin writes, Julius illustrates kiddie books

BLOOMING mother-to-be **Tin-tin Bersola-Babao** is enjoying her pregnancy to the max.

Tin-tin craves for *sinigang na* spareribs with lots of tomatoes. She and **Julius** will name their firstborn Antonio if it's a boy and Antonia if it's a baby girl. The ideal couple hasn't decided on the second name but they want their coming baby to have one.

They are so into the parenting mode that this early, they are launching a series of children's books for Goodwill Bookstore Foundation. Tin-tin wrote the stories and Julius made the illustrations for the books. Launching is on Aug. 15, 4 p.m., at the World Trade Center on Roxas Boulevard. Tin-tin will read her stories to the kids and, of course, she will also sign the books.

Their friendship blossomed as partners in their hosting chores on TV. The nice thing about this couple is that they didn't let marriage get in the way of their friendship. They continue to enjoy doing things together. Most couples in marriages are confined to just doing things for each other and just loving out of need. But with Tin-tin and Julius, it's definitely needing each other out of love.

Guess list

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Ann Carvajal

GUESS who this young actress is who was living in with a PBA cager for many years and then she just dumped him when she met another basketball player. She and Cager No. 1 already had wedding plans. Everything was set until she suddenly vanished. To think she was the one pressuring the player to marry her. It would be interesting to watch the two cagers collide on the hardcourt. Usually, basketball players are the ones who dribble hearts, but this poor cager was the one who got dumped like a ball being dunked.

***

Guess who this TV personality is who snatched away the married tycoon-lover of her colleague. The TV star is such a material girl so when she saw all the pricey bags, exquisite jewelry and flashy cars that the tycoon gave her colleague, she moved heaven and earth to hook him. My heart goes out to her colleague because she's now pregnant with the tycoon's baby. She's now in the US to avoid the media circus that might ensue. The funny thing is, both women are in the news and current affairs biz but when the news about their love triangle comes out in the open, they will both be the ones to hit the headlines.

BEST FRIENDS. Husband and wife Julius and Tin-tin PDI PHOTO

'Cadretoiles'

"CADRETOILES" is the first important solo exhibition of **Michel Herbert** since he decided a few years ago to express accumulated feelings and dreams on canvas. *Cadre* is French for frame, and *toile* means canvas, so Cadretoiles means frame and canvas united in an exuberant exhibition of colors and structures.

Herbert is constantly producing new art pieces, mixing various media, and is also considering murals for residential units or commercial buildings.

Opening night is Aug. 16 at Alliance Francaise de Manille Total Gallery Bel Air at 2 Reposa St. Cocktails at 6:30 p.m. Exhibit runs till Sept 3.

For more information, please call 8957585 or 8957441.

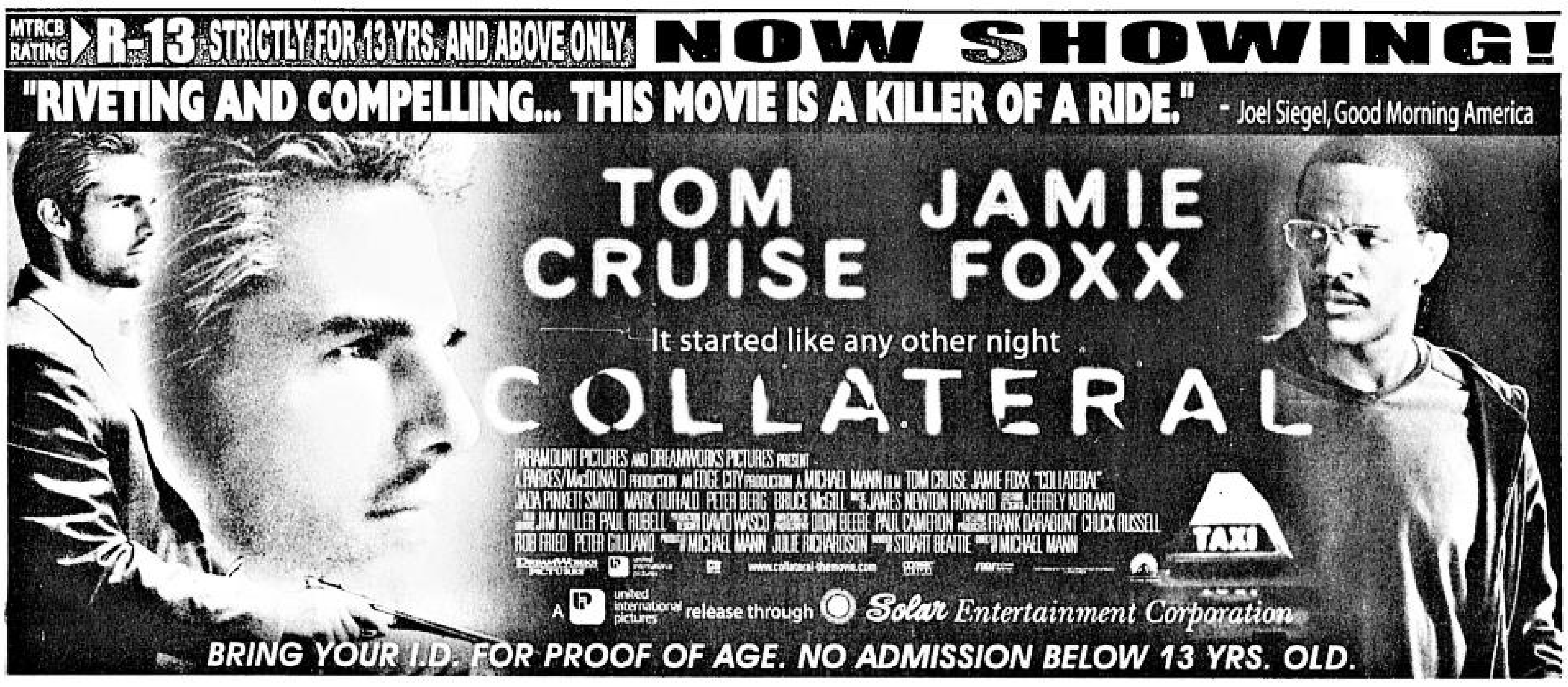
Personal

MABALOS to A. R. for reminding me how to smile. I almost thought I had forgotten how.

For feedback, e-mail friends_elpueblo@yahoo.com or dollyanne@truefaithband.com

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	MAKAMUNDO
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	MAKAMUNDO
B	CLOSED
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA 1, 2, & 3	GARFIELD / COLLATERAL / CATWOMAN
PREMIERE THEATRE	COLLATERAL
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	GHOST HOUSE (RE-ISSUE)
CINEMA-2	PERLAS
CINEMA-3	SPIDERMAN 2
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	I ROBOT
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	PRINCE & ME
CINEMA-6	KILL BILL VOL. 2
CINEMA-7	WEREWOLF
CINEMA-8	LIBERATED 2
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	I ROBOT
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	I ROBOT
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	SPIDERMAN 2
CINEMA-12	KING ARTHUR
CINEMA-14	ALONG CAME POLLY
CINEMA-15	AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS
LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN	
(LAS PINAS)	SPIDERMAN 2
CINEMA-1	LADY KILLERS
CINEMA-2	I ROBOT
CINEMA-4	RESERVED
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA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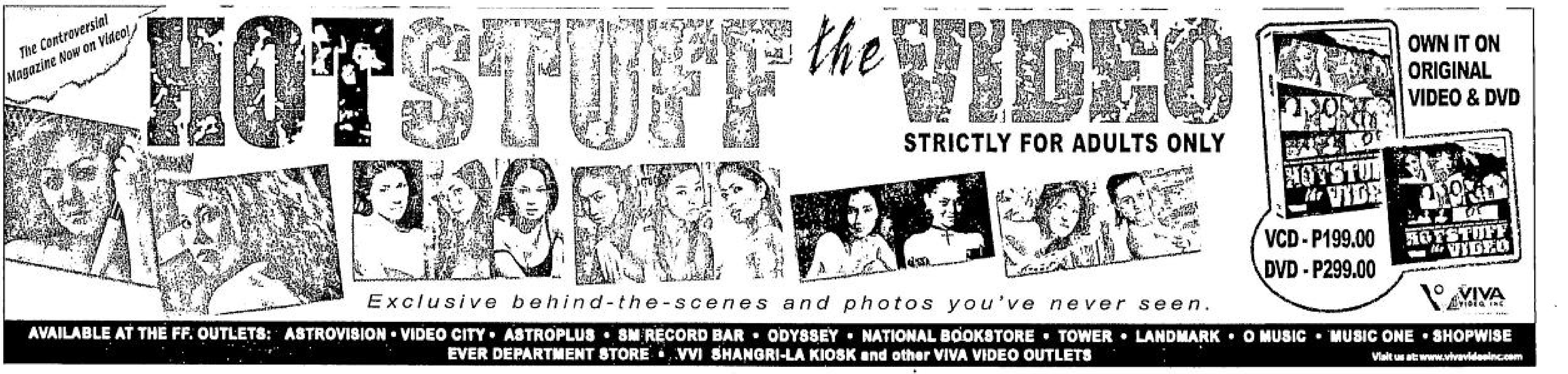
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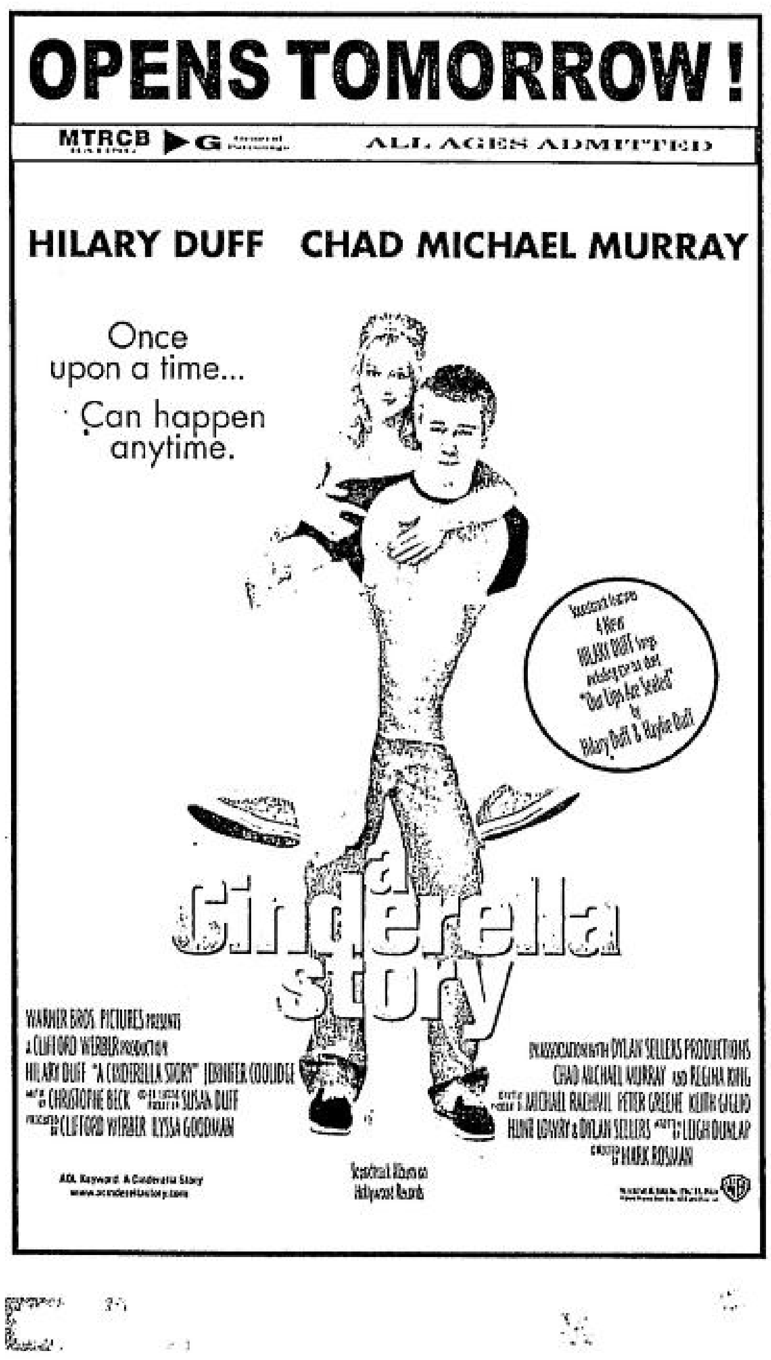
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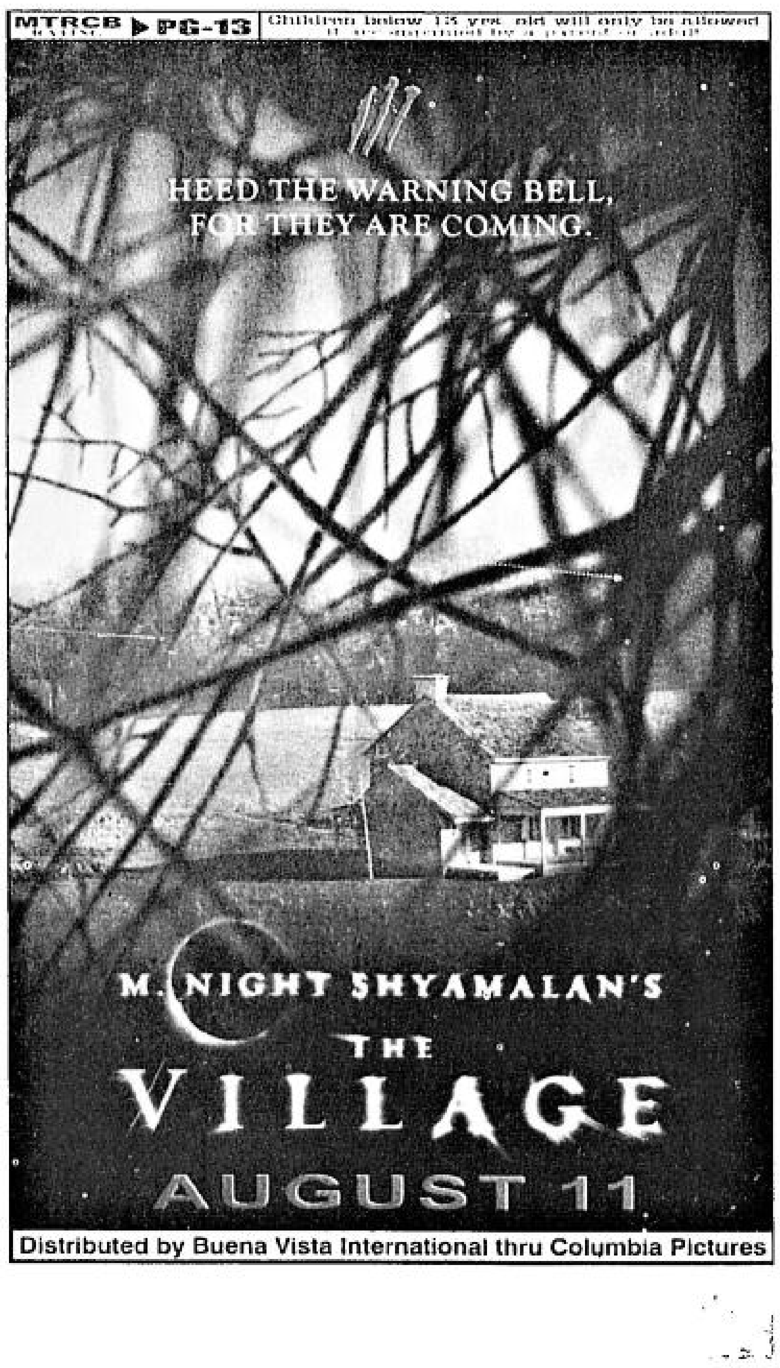
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4 ETERNAL SUNSHINE 11:20, 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
5 GARFIELD 11:10, 1:20, 3:30, 5:40, 7:50, 10:00
6 ALONG CAME POLLY 10:30, 12:40, 2:50, 5:40, 7:40, 9:40
7 DEAD PEOPLE 10:20, 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
8 ELLA ENCHANTED 12:20, 2:40, 5:00, 7:20, 9:40
9 CATWOMAN 10:20, 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
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2 CATWOMAN 10:10, 12:30, 2.50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50
3 GARFIELD 10:40, 12:40, 2:40, 4:40, 6:40, 8:40, 10:05
4 MAKAMUNDO 11:15, 1:20, 3.25, 5.30, 7.35, 9:40
5 DEAD PEOPLE 10:30, 12:45, 3:00, 5:15, 7:30, 9:50
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7 ETERNAL SUNSHINE 11:30, 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9 40

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2 COLLATERAL 11:20, 2:10, 5:00, 7:50, 10:35
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4 CATWOMAN 11:20, 1:40, 4:00, 6:20, 8:20, 10:35
5 DEAD PEOPLE 10:50, 12:50, 2:50, 4:50, 6:50, 9.00
6 ETERNAL SUNSHINE 11:10, 1:40, 4:10, 6:40, 9:10
7 COLLATERAL 11.55, 2.45, 5:35, 8:25
8 MAKAMUNDO 10:50, 12:50, 2:50, 4:50, 6:50, 9:00

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1 GARFIELD 11:45, 1:55, 4:05, 6:15, 8:30
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4 ALONG CAME POLLY 10:50, 12.50, 2:45, 4:40, 6:35, 8:30
5 COLLATERAL 12:10, 2:50, 5:30, 8:30
6 ETERNAL SUNSHINE 11:00, 12:55, 2:50, 4:45, 6:40, 8:35
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5 WEREWOLF
6 CATWOMAN

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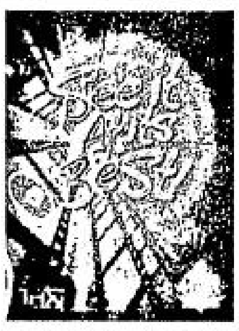

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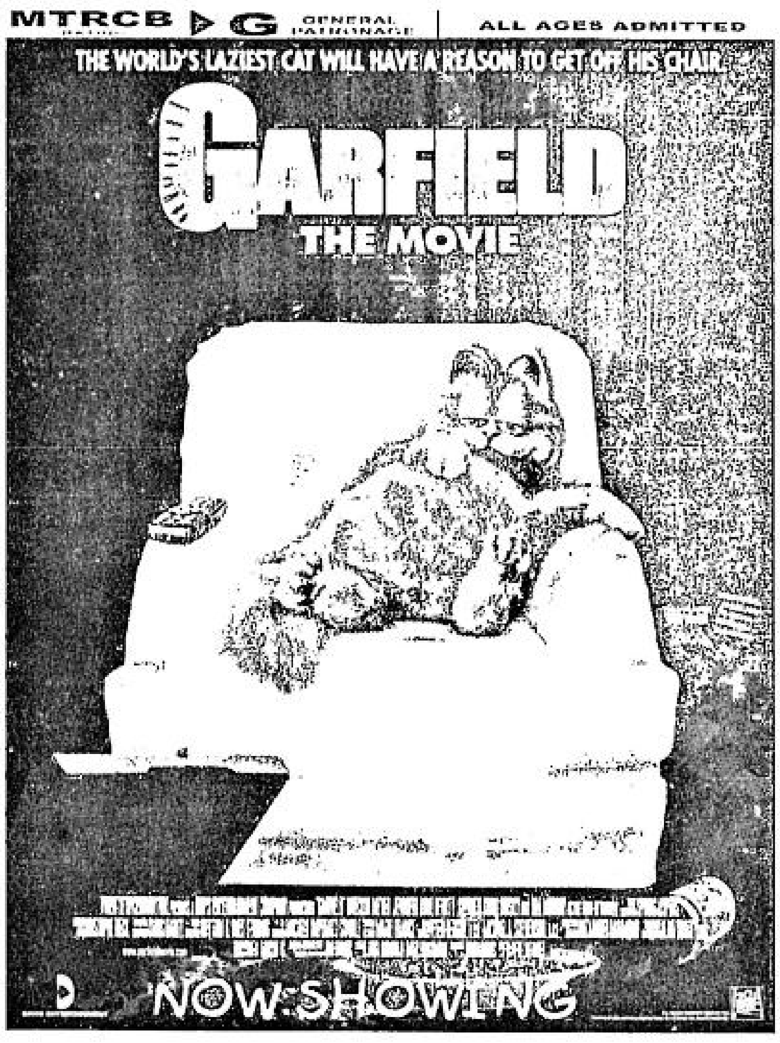
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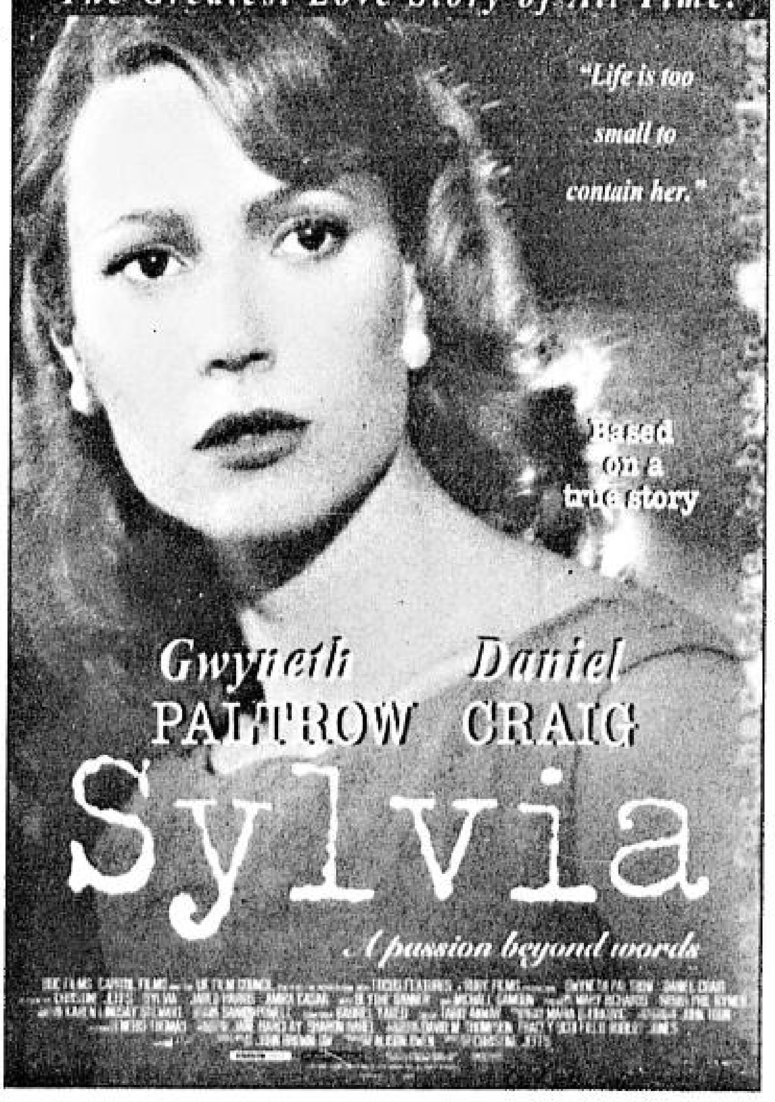

Gay . . .

From page A25

said he plans to hold the festival annually in Iloilo and in other regions. He also plans to hold discussions on gay and lesbian issues inside the theater after screenings, similar to the ones held during the Manila leg of the festival.

"Who knows, Iloilo might have its first Gay and Lesbian Pride March next year," he said.

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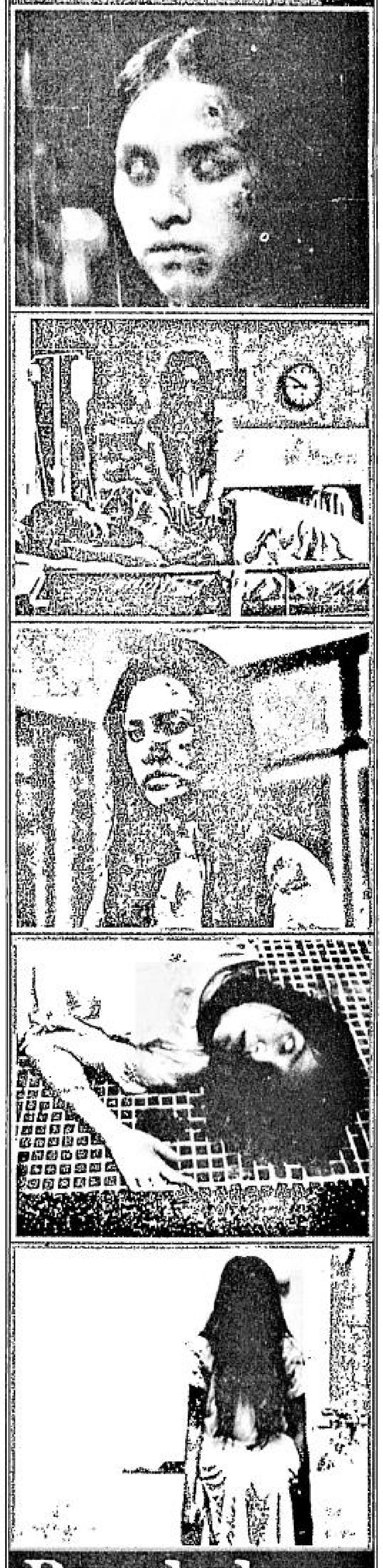

Bangkok Haunted 2
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Gay flag flies...

From page A22

"Isaak."

Deocampo, 45, said the films were part of efforts to empower gays and lesbians and to change the perception that considers homosexuality an aberration.

Pains and loves

He said the holding of the festival in Iloilo is also part of his struggle in being gay. He said he had a difficult childhood growing up gay.

"Everywhere I went, from our house to my school, I was ridiculed as *agi, agi, agi* (gay)," he said in a speech during the opening ceremony. He also remembered the times when he and a gay classmate were forced to engage in boxing matches in their P.E. class while their classmates cheered.

"I want to share with you what it means to be an *agi*, to share our pains and loves," he said. "After watching these films, I hope you can be more understanding and compassionate of gays and lesbians."

He said he hoped the festival would encourage heterosexual filmmakers to produce gay films "because there is a growing market for these films."

Deocampo wanted the festival in Iloilo to be low-key, just "to test the waters." But even with minimal promotion, hundreds of people flocked to the three-day festival, including straight men and women, he said.

The crowd favorite, Cris Pablo's "Duda", which tackled love, relationships and fidelity, was shown for a second day after tickets were sold out for the two scheduled screenings. It even eclipsed the opening film, "Inter.M@tes" by Hamilton McLeod, an entry in this year's New York Gay and Lesbian Film Festival that stars Ian Veneracion, Raymond Bagatsing and other macho Filipino actors playing gay roles.

Views changed

There were, of course, those who were still apprehensive and paranoid in watching the films. Inside the cinema, there were giggles and an occasional "Yuck!" during scenes of gay men kissing and having passionate sex.

But many of those who watched the films, particularly students, said they welcomed the festival. "It opened my views on gays and homosexual relationships," said Marlon, 18, a business management student.

"It's a good project and it changed my view that gays engage in relationships only for fun and pleasure and not for a meaningful partnership," said Shey, 18.

Edson, 38, was glad to watch gay films again. He saw Brocka's "Macho Dancer" while he was still in college.

Encouraged by the response, Deocampo

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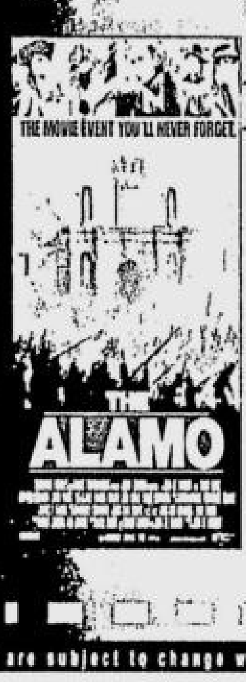

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Editor Louie C. Camino

'Direk' Joey: Film fest committee should've included Peque, Mel, Jeffrey

By Marinel R. Cruz

"I'M glad my movie was included in the film festival," said director Joey Javier Reyes. "I just wish that the films of Peque, Jeffrey and Mel got in, too.

"I just hope," Reyes added, "that independent producers and filmmakers would not get disappointed and discouraged."

In a phone interview last Sunday, the award-winning filmmaker and scriptwriter was expressing to INQUIRER Entertainment his disappointment over the selection of the eight final entries in the Metro Manila Film Festival this December.

Also on Sunday, MLR Films producer Josabeth Alonso, whose entry was rejected, called on the executive committee to allow public access to all of the 27 screenplays submitted to the festival.

While Reyes' "Bulong" made it to the final eight, Peque Gallaga's "Star Walker" from Imus Productions, Mel Chionglo's "Guardia de Honor" from Violett Films, and Jeffrey Jeturian's "Minsan Pa" from MLR Films were shut out.

"Bulong" stars Dingdong Dantes, Marvin Agustin, Rica Peralejo, Alessandra de Rossi, Paolo Contis and Ana Capri.

Reyes said it is important for this year's December film festival to succeed.

"Its failure could mean the death of the local film industry," he warned.

He pointed out that only 27 local movies were released from January to July this year. "We're lucky if we could even come up with 50 films this year," he said. "I wish something could be done. Movie-making has become so politicized now."

> Reyes said it is important for this year's December film festival to succeed. 'Its failure could mean the death of the local film industry,' he warned

REYES. "Bulong," in

GALLAGA. "Star Walker," out

What's sad

Of the eight final movies, three listed Joel Lamangan as their director: MAQ Films' "Mano Po 3," BasFilm Productions' epic drama "Aishite Imasu 1941," starring Raymart Santiago, Judy Ann Santos and Dennis Trillo; and the Regal Films drama-comedy "Que Sera Sera," which stars Eric Quizon, Kris Aquino, Mark Herras and Rainier Castillo.

All three, plus MegaVisions' "Sigaw," directed by Yam Laranas, are said to be from Regal matriarch Lily Monteverde, which triggered complaints from other producers and directors who also submitted entries to the festival's executive committee.

"It was not Joel Lamangan's fault that his three movies are part of the film festival," said Reyes. "But I personally think that it would be better had the film fest executive committee also decided to showcase (the works of) these three directors," he added, referring to Gallaga, Chionglo and Jeturian.

"I'm not in a position to criticize the executive committee," Reyes said. "I don't exactly know how they choose the Magic 8. What I feel sad about is that it's as if the film fest is veering away from its goal of saving the dying local movie industry."

The festival executive committee is headed by Metro Manila Development Authority Bayani Fernando, with Wilson Tieng, Dominic Du, Espiridion Laxa and Joey Romero as members.

"All I'm saying is that, I think it would have been interesting to see Peque, who hasn't done a movie in a long while, to finally come up with one this year," Reyes stressed. "Jeffrey is now considered a major director and so everyone would want to know what he would do this time, after the success of 'Bridal Shower.'"

In last year's festival, Jeturian's "Bridal Shower," about three women in search of love and relationships, was a big favorite at the box-office and among critics, with an award-winning performance by Cherrie Pie Picache.

"Mel has been wanting to do 'Guardia' when Lino Brocka was still alive," Reyes said. "This is his dream project." "Guardia de Honor" is said to have been scripted by the late great Brocka.

Something wrong

Among those who complained about Monteverde's being connected to four of the eight film fest entries was MLR Films producer Josabeth Alonso, the producer of Jeturian's "Minsan Pa."

Alonso filed a complaint with the festival executive committee last Thursday, saying certain film fest rules and regulations were "adjusted to favor other producers."

"I merely want to point out that something is not right in the system," Alonso had said.

On Sunday, Alonso called on the executive committee to give the public access to all 27 screenplays submitted to the festival.

"I have confirmed information that there was someone who, instead of submitting a script, merely handed a sequence treatment," Alonso said. "This is highly irregular.

Contradicting themselves

"I'm not going into movie production for the money," she claimed. "All I want is to make a good film as my personal contribution to the industry, at the risk of losing my investment. What is painful is the reality that sometimes, noble causes are set aside for personal interests."

Alonso said, "In the afternoon of August 5, when the executive committee met and had the chance to pass upon the points I had raised, they defended the deadline extensions, saying there couldn't be a film fest with only three entries (the number of scripts submitted on the first deadline, July 1).

"They lost sight of the fact that by July 10 (the second deadline), they already had 10 entries. Isn't the number more than enough?

"They're only contradicting themselves. What was so special about the entries which were submitted between July 10 and July 25 (the third and final deadline)? Why couldn't they extend the deadline until the end of July, to make a full month from July 1? That would have been more logical."

"Unfortunately," she added, executive committee chair Fernando was not present in the Aug. 5 meeting.

CHIONGLO. "Guardia de Honor," out

JETURIAN. "Minsan Pa," out

> Alonso called on the committee to give the public access to all 27 screenplays

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B1

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Consumer price hikes loom in October

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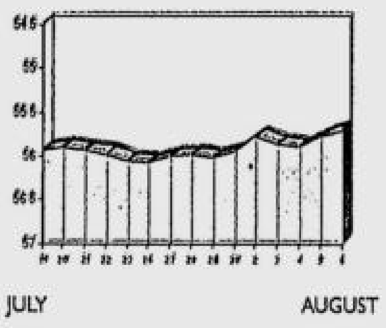


₱55.71 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Aug. 9, 2004

¥110.20 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Aug. 9, 2004

GOLD: $397.50-398.00
per ounce Hong Kong, Aug. 9, 2004

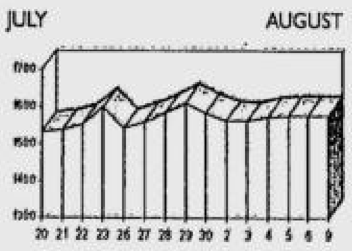
STOCK MARKET

Stocks end up slightly

STOCKS finished higher yesterday, led by the country's largest conglomerate, Ayala Corp., but gains were capped by profit-taking in telecom issues after they surged last week on solid quarterly profits.

Ayala Corp.—the holding company that controls top Philippine property firm Ayala Land Inc., number two lender Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI) and the country's second-biggest mobile phone firm, Globe Telecom Inc.—closed 1.89 percent higher at P5.40.

Reuters



(See stock market report on Page B6)

By Ronnel W. Domingo

CONSUMER welfare advocate Raul Concepion said yesterday the government should be straightforward with the public about the pricing situation on basic goods as price increases were seen to kick in by the end of this quarter.

"The government should tell it as it is," Concepcion said. "Prices of oil have gone up several times, power rates are going up just as transport fares did—these are the writing on the wall."

Since the start of the year, prices of gasoline have gone up by as much P4.85 a liter and diesel by as high as P3.65 a liter.

Transport fares went up by P1.50 for the first four kilometers while regulators' decisions on power generators' rates point to future increases in end-user's bills.

Concepcion, who chairs the private-sector Consumer and Oil Price Watch, said rising prices of basic needs put pressure on the labor sector to ask for higher wages that, in turn, would result to loss of jobs since employers did not have the money to pay them more.

"We expect to see the effects of these factors by the end of October," he said. "An added factor at that time would be the build up for the Christmas season."

He added that with the global uptrend in the cost of raw materials for manufactured goods, the rise in prices of finished products were expected especially among plastic products and construction materials.

On the other hand, Concepcion said prices of agricultural products were not expected to go up. "Local supply exceeds demand, as in the case of chicken."

Last week, the National Price Coordinating Council said prices of basic goods continued to remain generally stable despite rising oil prices in the global and local markets.

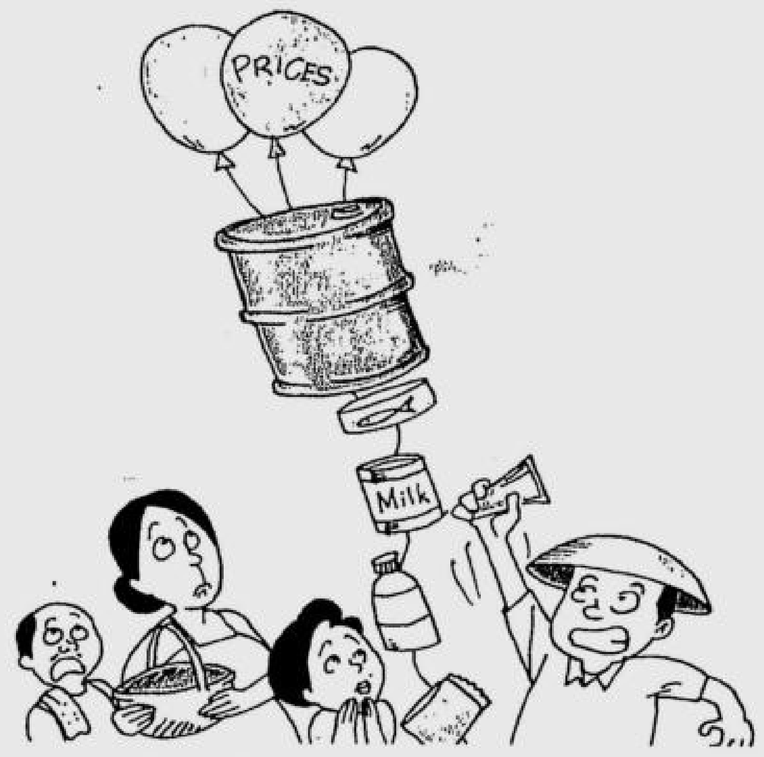
The NPCC said prices of a number of basic products like flour, chicken, cooking oil, pork, tilapia and bangus have stabilized or have even declined since March.

"There are several basic necessities and goods that increased prices to adjust with rising oil prices, costs of raw materials, packaging and distribution," the multi-agency body said.

Data based on the NPCCs latest monitoring showed that certain brands of canned fish, canned meat, and milk increased in prices compared with a month ago. In the same period, prices of some fish and vegetables as well as cooking oil went down.

"These price adjustments are transitory and do not indicate a trend of price increases nor do we expect this to be a permanent situation," the NPCC said. "Inflation is under control and will remain so."

The council added that price increases in certain products, especially canned goods, were attributed to the rise in price of tin cans which, in turn, was due to higher cost of tin plates.



Investments surge 590% in 6 months

TOTAL investments approved in the first half increased by 590 percent, continuing the uptrend triggered by a P96.5-billion liquefied natural gas complex project in Bataan.

Documents from the Department of Trade and Industry showed that the Board of Investments and the Philippine Economic Zone Authority approved from January to June projects valued at P140.97 billion.

In the first six months, the BOI gave the go-ahead to projects worth P113.72 billion, or an improvement of 1,142 percent from P9.15 billion in the same period last year.

At the same time, Peza approved P27.24 billion in projects, an increase of 142 percent from P11.28 billion in the first half of 2003.

Trade Secretary Cesar V. Purisima said he was optimistic that the growth in the first semester would continue through the second half as the government moved to improve the country's investment climate to help realize its commitment to create at least 6 million jobs in the next 6 years.

Purisima said the 216 projects approved in the first half were expected to create 37,604 jobs.

INVESTMENTS/ B3

BIR files tax evasion charges against 9 firms

By Michelle V. Remo

THE BUREAU of Internal Revenue has detected about P100 billion in under-declared sales by corporate taxpayers as of last year, resulting in huge tax revenue losses for the cash-strapped government.

According to Revenue Commissioner Guillermo Parayno Jr., the BIR found out about the sales under-declaration through its computerized auditing system called Relief (Reconciliation of Listing for Enforcement). Relief uses third-party information, such as the list of purchases of client firms, to check the accuracy of a company's sales declaration.

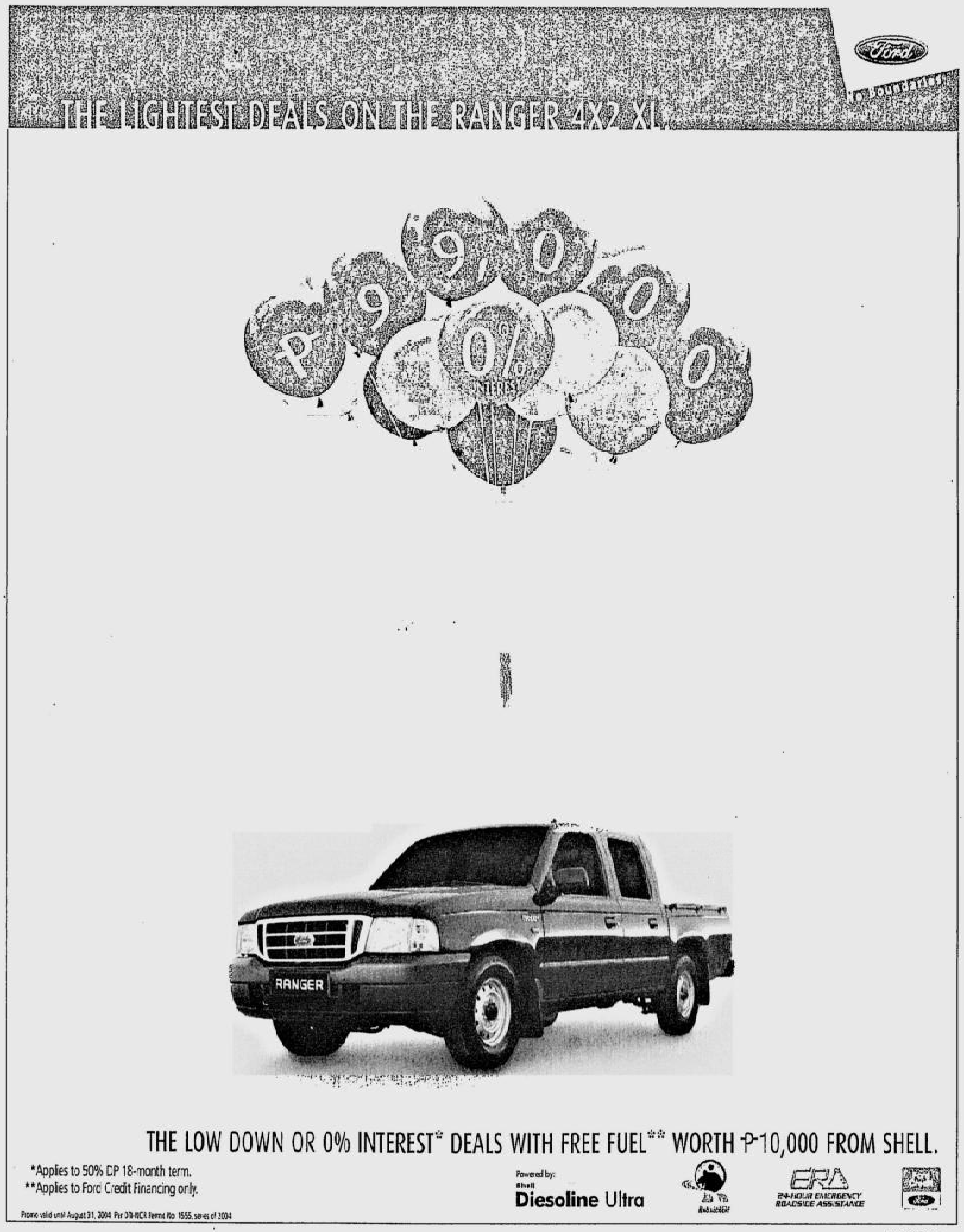
"For those who have been cheating the government of taxes, they better start complying with their tax obligations because the BIR now has the technology to detect tax cheats," Parayno said during the filing of tax evasion cases against nine retail trade firms yesterday at the Quezon City Prosecutors' Office.

The nine firms were part of the first batch of companies among the 2,000 firms against which the BIR earlier said it intended to take legal action this year. "This is the start of a series of filing of criminal complaints against tax evaders. We will be filing similar cases against tax cheats all over the country," Parayno said.

The 10 firms were: Philippine Shoe Expo Marketing Corp., Anflo Inter-Chemical Supply Inc., Konstrak International Inc., Renztek Inc., Kyota Paper and Printing Corp., Grand Multi Motors & Transport Corp., P and Z Brobio Plumbing Contractors Inc., Hi-tech Packaging Printhouse, and Cosmic Distributors Inc.

The BIR chief said the P100 billion in under-declared sales covered 2,000 companies,

BIR/ B2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My funny bailing time

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

DO YOU ever wonder whatever happened to those countless cases that the PCGG filed in court when Magellan was still a Boy Scout? Well, neither do I.

But recent news about a particular PCGG case treated me to a hearty laugh. Please remind me to thank the one and only Presidential Commission on Good Government for it.

It seems that the graft court Sandiganbayan dismissed a graft case filed by the PCGG way back in 1986 against SMC chair and CEO Eduardo Cojuangco Jr.

Again—the case was filed in 1986! Look at that—18 years ago! My goose neck, we are now in a different millenium! Hell, in 1986, Danding still had hair.

***

FROM what I gathered, anyway, the First Division of the Sandiganbayan finally threw out the case, in a resolution penned by Associate Justice Diosdado Peralta.

It seems that, way back in 1986, the PCGG filed the graft case against Danding to make him pay for something he allegedly did, when he was director of the PCA.

The PCA is the Philippine Coconut Authority. The PCGG alleged that the government agency PCA released some money to a private entity called Cocofed.

Now Cocofed is the Philippine Coconut Producer's Federation, one of the groups in the coconut industry that the government normally deals with.

Sued by the PCGG together with Danding were the other PCA directors at that time, namely Ma. Clara Lobregat, Rolando dela Cuesta, Hermenegildo Zayco and Jose Eleazar, plus of course the PCA administrator, Felix Dueñas.

The names of three of those six accused may sound familiar to you. The persons bearing those names have passed away, namely Lobregat, ELeazar and Dueñas.

And so perhaps the dismissal of the case is really not too late. Only half of the people accused in the case have died. Don't you just love this PCGG!

***

NOW running away with the grand prize for the 2004 annual comical news awards is the amount which the PCGG has claimed to have been involved in the ... well, "graft" case.

It was the bigtime amount of P2 million. Whaaat? Funny or not, the amount is not even enough for the bail of Jose Pidal when his time comes. Oops!

Still, I don't know if the amount—all of the P2 million—would make Danding proud for its being the biggest justification for the PCGG's suing him for graft.

Okay, at that time, Danding was forced to go into exile, following the takeover of Tita Cory from Apo Mackoy, and still nothing spectacular really happened to us.

But even then, to be sued over P2 million, at least to a guy like Danding, who controlled multi-billion-peso businesses, should have been a lot of fun.

The only question now is, in filing the case way back in 1986, or about 18 long years ago, did the PCGG originally want to recover the money?

Or did the PCGG perhaps want to put Danding and the others to jail over that P2 million?

For all we know, the PCGG filed the case just for, you know, the heck of filing a case, period. Just file something, garden it! Anything! This, I now remember, was the battlecry of the hurried PCGG at that time.

***

AND SO now it's only 18 years later. Now we can finally take a look at the result of all that, er, "hardwork" done by the PCGG in its mission to file cases wholesale. It's a gas!

I am not even talking about the fantastic amount of P2 million. You see, the PCGG case talked about "unwarranted benefits" to Cocofed, which resulted in "undue disadvantage" to the government.

And that was supposed to be the crime of Danding et al. I mean, come on, boss, couldn't you have been vaguer than that?

Look, under this cute administration of Gloriaetta, all those businesses and all those rich families are getting "unwarranted benefits" from the electricity subsidy.

I don't know if the PCGG can sue Gloriaetta for graft. I only know that we, the guys down here, must pay for the subsidy with our blood, sweat and taxes.

And what about the PCGG appointees in all those sequestered companies? They made more money than the government itself, i.e. "unwarranted benefits?"

Does that mean that it's now time to abolish the PCGG, while the PCGG appointees are still enjoying the perks?

* * *

ANYWAY, the original prosecutor assigned to the case, Victorio Tabanquil, has actually recommended its withdrawal.

He said then that "there is no mention (in the PCGG case) that the disbursements were illegal, anomalous, irregular, or excessive."

In other words, the PCGG could not show any "bad faith" in the transaction between longtime partners in various projects involving the coconut industry.

Still more wonderful than all those was the claim of the PCGG on why it had to file the graft case. And that was, well, the disbursement led to other offenses, supposedly.

But what were those other offenses? *Basta*, secret!

To which the Sandiganbayan said, oh yeah, well, those SUPPOSED other offenses were not good enough. You should be specific. Otherwise, you violate the rights of the accused.

The poor sons of their mothers who were accused by the PCGG did not even know what those other offenses to which the disbursement could have led, supposedly.

* * *

FOLLOWING is a short note I got from Annie Garcia, vice president for operations of Shopping Center Management Corp., the corporate arm of Henry "Tatang" Sy's chain of humongous SM malls.

"This has reference to your column last July 31, 2004, citing an incident which occurred in SM Megamall regarding the handling by our security personnel of the autistic child who wandered away from his mother as she was paying her bill at the SM Department Store.

"We acknowledge the mall's responsibility in extending full assistance to all our customers. We did try to help look for the missing boy as soon as we received notice of the situation. With this experience, please be assured that we will subject our guards to a training session regarding autism so that we may better appreciate all our customers.

GSIS sees ₱497M in trading gains

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

THE GOVERNMENT Service Insurance System (GSIS) is continuing to grow its investments in the stock market, booking P393 million in trading income from January to early August.

For this year, the government pension fund expects P497 million in trading gains.

But according to Winston Garcia, GSIS president and general manager, GSIS would have earned more "if only the bickering at the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE) board would stop."

Garcia told the INQUIRER that the pension fund would continue to trade in the stock market so long as they continue to generate enough revenue to service the claims of its members.

He also said the GSIS would not hesitate to return its shares in the PSE—which is separate from GSIS investments in blue-chip firms—should a court of law require the pension fund to do so.

A group of stockbrokers earlier went to court to stop members of the board from completing the sale of PSE shares through a private placement.

The brokers opposed the sale of 40 percent of the PSE to private institutions, namely: GSIS, PLDT Beneficial Trust Fund, San Miguel Retirement Fund, Kim Eng Investment Ltd., KE Strategic Pte. Ltd., A. Soriano Corp. and Equinox Partners.

In a manifesto signed by around 80 stockholders, they said that the private placement was "consummated in undue haste," and lacked transparency.

They also said that the transaction price of P119.50 per share "was extremely low and grossly disadvantageous to PSE stockholders."

From October to December last year, the pension fund earned P24.36 million from its stock trading activities, GSIS said in a statement.

The pension fund registered trading income of P105.57 million from January to March or an increase of more than 430 percent over the previous quarter.

GSIS sustained the growth in the second quarter, earning P127.3 million or 20 percent higher than the first quarter. This brought the first half earnings to P232.87 million.

The pension fund holds roughly P39 billion worth of shares in blue-chip firms.

Its P39-billion stock investments make up roughly 16 percent of its total P244 billion investment portfolio as of May. The bulk of its investments are in loans and government securities.

The PSE earlier junked the GSIS proposal to pull out its investment in the bourse.

CAP considers shares-for-equity swap

THE COLLEGE Assurance Plan Philippines Inc. (CAP) may issue convertible preferred shares to allow a prospective foreign investor to acquire a third of the pre-need giant's total equity.

After emerging from a meeting at the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) yesterday, CAP director Robert John Sobrepeña said that they are studying the issuance of preferred shares that may be redeemable in 10 years in exchange for an equity infusion of at least $100 million by a prospective investor.

The proposed investment may consist of a long-term loan and $100 million worth of fresh equity. The amount of the proposed loan has yet to be disclosed.

"After 10 years, we can retire the preferred share," Sobrepeña said. "We (will) have enough time to settle it (preferred share redemption)."

He declined to identify the investor, but said the proposed equity infusion will come from "funds from the United States."

CAP is also finalizing terms of a possible agreement with the prospective investor, which hopefully will come on board in a month's time, Sobrepeña said.

According to sources at the Securities and Exchange Commission, the regulator is giving CAP until Sept. 30 to make good its promise to bring in a new investor and help the pre-need firm address its trust fund deficit.

Also, the SEC is now considering whether to renew CAP's dealer's license—or its permit to sell securities—which is set to expire on Sept. 30.

In its financial report last year, CAP revealed recurring operational losses amounting to P2.8 billion in 2003 and P403.3 million in 2002.

Its trust fund assets, being managed by trustee banks, "had not grown sufficiently" to match its total ARL, or net liability to plan holders, amounting to P25.6 billion. This resulted in a trust fund deficit of P17.2 billion as of end-2003.

CAP recently announced that a prospective investor had offered to extend to the pre-need company at least P3.4 billion in loans.

The amount offered is equivalent to the face value of CAP's Metro Rail Transit or MRT bonds, sources said.

The loan proposal is an alternative to selling the bonds at its present value of P3.4 billion, which was lower than its 2002 appraised value of about P7 billion.

To cover for future education pre-need claims, CAP considered selling at least P3.4 billion worth of bonds, backed by the cash flow from the MRT project this year.

CAP had sought another month to negotiate with a prospective investor that would likely infuse $100 million in new equity to the company, the SEC said.

The SEC said another investor was waiting to take over the company should CAP fail to find an investor.

SEC chair Lilia Bautista said a European investment bank had approached the SEC to express its interest in infusing more than $100 million into the pre-need firm. She declined to identify the interested investor. *Elizabeth L. Sanchez*

BIR files tax evasion charges . . .

From page B1

which were already given notice by the BIR to rectify their tax remittances, including income tax and value-added tax (VAT). In the delivery of its notice, Parayno said, the BIR prioritized companies whose unpaid tax liabilities reach at least P1 million.

According to Revenue Deputy Commissioner for prosecution Licerio Evangelista, the unpaid tax liabilities of each charged company averaged at P20 million. The biggest unpaid tax liability was of Cosmic's, which allegedly evaded P38 million in taxes.

He said the BIR was set to file tax evasion cases against 14 more companies this week. The amount of tax liabilities of all 23 companies belonging to the first batch of respondents to the BIR's tax evasion cases was estimated at P380 million.

Aboitiz expects profit to rise to ₱700M in two years

By Clarissa S. Batino

ABOITIZ One Inc., the courier and logistics arm of Aboitiz & Co., has projected an almost five-fold increase in its net profit to about P700 million in the next two years with the introduction of its new express service.

The company registered a net income of P120 million in 2003. Aboitiz officials said they were on track in meeting their profit target of P180 to P200 million this year.

Sabin Aboitiz, president of Aboitiz One, said the company last Aug. 1 launched a service called 1-3-6.

The new product, he claimed, was a first-of-its-kind in the country. He said customers would be given a choice whether they would want their cargo to reach its destination overnight, within 3 days or within 6 days.

"This is a product that will provide our customers a choice of lead time and simplified rate that is least time-sensitive," said the company's top official. "With this, we expect our revenue to increase by 100 percent in two years' time to P700 million."

In the first quarter, the company posted a P40-million in net income or double its earnings a year ago.

Aboitiz said that before 1-3-6 was introduced last week, a customer would first have to bring the goods to a pier or airport so he could have the products shipped to another province.

"With 1-3-6, one will just have to call any Aboitiz office to have the goods picked up," he said.

Aboitiz One has 300 outlets nationwide.

Aboitiz One utilizes a fleet of 7 aircraft, nearly 20 sea vessels, and more than a thousand land vehicles for its delivery and courier service. The company is affiliated with Aboitiz Transport System Inc., formerly WG&A.

Last week, the company forged a P1.5-billion, 5-year deal with Swiss pharmaceutical distributor Diethelm Philippines Inc. for the delivery of medicine and healthcare products in the country.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of August 9, 2004)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	7,600
Bank of the Phil. Islands	41	41	40.5	41	631,800
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	39.5	39.5	39.5	39.5	1,000
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	20,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	25.5	26	25.5	26	57,300
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	11.5	11.5	11.5	11.5	5,000
Security Bank Corp.	20.75	20.75	20.75	20.75	5,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	23.75	24	23.75	24	16,100
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Manulife Financial Corp.	2190	2190	2190	2190	100
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.32	1.32	1.32	1.32	120,000
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	108	108	108	108	1,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1505	1505	1505	1505	410
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	20.25	20.5	20.25	20.5	23,600
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.67	0.67	0.66	0.66	810,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	880	885	870	885	65,530
Ipeople Inc.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	23,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.043	0.046	0.043	0.046	3,000,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.037	0.037	0.037	0.037	1,700,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	110,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	4,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	2.38	2.4	2.34	2.34	12,190,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	0.215	0.215	0.215	0.215	60,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1270	1285	1260	1275	161,730
Ivantage Corp.	0.56	0.56	0.55	0.55	320,000
Philweb Corp.	0.01	0.012	0.01	0.012	22,500,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	14.75	15	14.5	14.75	70,600
Manila Electric Co. B	21.75	22	21.5	21.75	400,300
Petron Corp.	2.75	2.75	2.7	2.7	1,039,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1.06	1.06	1.06	1.06	115,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Aboitiz Trans. Sys. Corp.	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	250,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	3.2	3.3	3.2	3.3	279,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.38	0.41	0.38	0.4	4,910,000
Union Cement Corp.	1.72	1.74	1.72	1.74	340,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.95	2.95	2.95	2.95	5,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	25.5	25.5	25	25.5	84,900
RFM Corp.	0.85	0.85	0.78	0.78	20,000
Swift Food Inc.	0.41	0.42	0.4	0.4	150,000
San Miguel Corp. A	57	57.5	57	57.5	10,300
San Miguel Corp. B	69	69	69	69	2,000
Universal Robina Corp.	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.8	100,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.29	0.3	0.29	0.3	1,200,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.0055	0.0055	0.005	0.0055	17,000,000
Ayala Corp.	5.3	5.4	5.3	5.4	1,791,000
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.33	0.35	0.33	0.35	100,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	3	3	3	3	12,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.022	0.023	0.022	0.023	5,600,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.006	0.0065	0.0055	0.006	13,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	20,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	0.98	1.02	0.98	1.02	80,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	25	25	25	25	4,700
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	160,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.48	0.49	15,710,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.125	0.125	130,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.175	0.195	0.175	0.195	5,730,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.0625	0.0625	0.0625	0.0625	200,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	1.16	1.44	1.16	1.4	21,575,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.031	0.031	0.031	0.031	5,000,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	23	23.25	23	23.25	238,600
Global Equities Inc.	0.0675	0.07	0.0675	0.0675	4,800,000
House Of Investments Inc.	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	190,000
Ionics Inc.	1.1	1.1	1.08	1.1	40,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.72	1.72	1.7	1.7	736,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.6	1.64	1.58	1.58	340,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. A	0.013	0.015	0.013	0.015	4,700,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	0.014	0.016	0.014	0.016	16,000,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.12	1.18	1.12	1.18	4,017,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.29	0.3	0.29	0.29	3,230,000
Prime Media Holdings Inc.	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	60,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	100,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37	250,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.2	0.205	0.2	0.205	1,260,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	1	1	1	1	10,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	300,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.55	0.56	0.55	0.55	1,760,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.29	0.37	0.29	0.37	8,240,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	20.5	20.75	20.5	20.75	80,300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series P	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.75	10.75	10.75	10.75	1,200
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,900
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	2,800
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	6,400
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	6	6	6	6	291,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.7	5.7	5.6	5.6	15,763,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	100,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.225	0.225	300,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.245	0.25	0.245	0.25	1,350,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	0.97	0.97	0.96	0.96	4,830,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.16	0.165	0.16	0.165	550,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6	6	5.8	5.9	2,756,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	90,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	3.2	3.7	3.2	3.5	669,000
Benguet Corp. A	1.2	1.24	1.2	1.24	20,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.25	0.28	0.245	0.25	39,290,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.31	0.33	0.29	0.3	28,390,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.02	0.021	0.019	0.019	280,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.022	0.022	0.02	0.02	350,600,000
Omico Corp.	0.004	0.0042	0.0038	0.004	580,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.45	0.47	0.44	0.44	3,380,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.5	0.5	0.47	0.47	3,390,000
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	1,650,000
OIL					
Interport Res. B	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	17,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0038	0.004	0.0038	0.004	161,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.004	0.004	0.0038	0.004	26,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	500,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.027	0.027	0.026	0.026	400,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	200,000

DISCLOSURES

FIL-ESTATE Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Sept. 23, 8:30 a.m. at the Garden Ballroom of Edsa Shangri-La Hotel, Mandaluyong City.

* * *

JG Summit Holdings Inc. filed a Notice of Exempt Transaction with the Securities and Exchange Commission for the subscription offer of its 255 million series A redeemable preferred shares.

* * *

PILIPINO Telephone Corp. confirmed reports that the Court of Appeals upheld the decision of a lower court exempting the company from paying local franchise taxes.

* * *

INTERPHIL Laboratories Inc. bought 8,000 of its own shares at P1.90 each.

* * *

FAR Eastern University will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Sept. 18. Stockholders of record as of Aug. 23 will be entitled to vote at the meeting. ***Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research***

CURRENCIES

August 9, 2004 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.814133355	1.000000	55.7060
Japan	Yen	0.007373	0.009056	0.5045
United Kingdom	Pound	1.500204	1.842700	102.6494
Hongkong	Dollar	0.104434	0.128276	7.1457
Switzerland	Franc	0.650734	0.799297	44.5256
Canada	Dollar	0.620292	0.761905	42.4427
Singapore	Dollar	0.474023	0.582242	32.4344
Australia	Dollar	0.58169	0.714490	39.8014
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.15962	2.652661	147.7691
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.217102	0.266667	14.8550
Brunei	Dollar	0.472647	0.580552	32.3402
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000089	0.000109	0.0061
Thailand	Baht	0.019698	0.024195	1.3478
UAE	Dirham	0.221659	0.272264	15.1667
Euro	Euro	1	1.228300	68.4237
ArgentinaPeso	0.266056	0.326797	18.2046	
Brazil	REAL	0.267543	0.328623	18.3063
Denmark	Kroner	0.134503	0.165210	9.2032
India	Rupee	0.017592	0.021608	1.2037
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.214274	0.263193	14.6614
Mexico	New Peso	0.071443	0.087754	4.8884
New Zealand	Dollar	0.532113	0.653595	36.4092
Norway	Kroner	0.119853	0.147215	8.2008
Pakistan	Rupee	0.013912	0.017088	0.9519
South Africa	Rand	0.133091	0.163476	9.1066
Korea	Won	0.000701	0.000861	0.0480
Sweden	Kroner	0.108897	0.133758	7.4511
Syria	Pound	0.019732	0.024237	1.3501
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.023903	0.029360	1.6355
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000425	0.000522	0.0291

Tips on how to be a better investor (Part 3)

MR. BEARBULL

Ron Nathan

Learn technical analysis

THE ABOVE commandment is slightly misleading because if you desire to become a really competent investor, you must also learn global economics and fundamental analysis.

By global, I do not mean that you have to study every country, but you must at least know what is happening in the United States.

Wherever the American stock market is heading, the rest of the world will follow. After the 9/11 attack, the US market got battered for a few months and every other stock market followed the downtrend. When the US market finally got back on its feet, every other market recovered.

How do you learn about the American stock market? First, listen every night to Bloomberg, assuming that you have cable TV, and tune in to CNN.

Listen to Chair Greenspan when he addresses the Senate or Congress. This usually starts at 9:30 p.m. or 10 p.m., but I must admit that he is not the easiest person in the world to understand.

If you cannot do this, then read his speeches in the newspaper or go to the Internet and check on CNN Money.com or Bloomberg.com and also read the commentaries.

When Wall Street sneezes, the rest of the world catches pneumonia.

Basic knowledge

For the local market, the business section should give you all the necessary information. But if you want more details, go to the web sites of Neda or the PSE and listen to Channel 21, which is largely devoted to the economic and political situation of the Philippines. You can also enroll in courses at universities and colleges.

Next, you should have a basic knowledge in fundamental analysis.

This means that you need to know all about companies. You must know how to read a balance sheet, calculate the earnings per share and from this, the price/earnings ratio.

You need to understand what a yield means, how many times a dividend is covered, and what preferred and convertible stocks are.

You should know book value and understand such concepts as debt and cash flow.

You can take a course in accounting or business management, and there are plenty of books, local and imported, in all the major bookstores.

Do not ask me to recommend one because I studied accountancy in 1951 and have not read any books since then.

By now, you are probably too discouraged to read on, but don't despair because help is on the way.

Technistock.com has a website that will provide you with up to the minute quotations on every stock that trades throughout the session.

It also gives you a company profile, dividend history, balance sheets covering five years, plus financial data such as earnings per share and price/earnings ratios.

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If you want to buy a simple but excellent technical analysis book, try TECHNICAL ANALYSIS OF THE FUTURES MARKET by John Murphy, available possibly at local bookstores or at amazon.com.

It was written years ago but is still considered to be a classic. Every aspect is explained simply and it can be used for trading stocks, commodities, currencies or futures.

* * *

I fell apprehensive about the market, both ours and in the US.

Last Friday, I wrote to subscribers that the number of American jobs created in July was about to be announced and that economists were expecting 265,000.

I warned that if the number fell below 200,000, Wall Street would take another dive and bring down markets around the world.

I had a premonition that they would come in well below expectations, but the actual figure of only 32,000 was shocking.

The DOW has dropped 300 points in two days and in percentage terms, the NASDAQ has performed much worse.

The equity market and the dollar slid while the bond market and gold rallied as they move in opposite directions.

It will be interesting to see what Alan Greenspan makes of all this, but there are obviously doubts about economic growth being sustained at its current level.

Jobless recovery

A jobless recovery is not what President Bush wants to hear a few months ahead of the election. The Morgan Stanley Asia-Pacific index has fallen steadily for the past six weeks and the S&P index of 500 companies fell 5.8 percent last week, breaking through a well-established trading range.

Technically, this looks bad, and investors are lowering their expectations of earnings growth from the current 26 percent to 15 percentnext year. Some analysts are downgrading GDP for 2005 to 3 percent.

At home, we are faced with record oil prices, which has led to the seventh rise in gasoline prices this year. This is partly responsible for the unexpected jump in inflation from 5.1 percent to 6 percent, and a well-known local economist predicts that it will reach 7.1 percent by November.

If he is right, then it is doubtful whether the central bank can keep its lending rate at a 12-year low till the year-end. Any increase would make borrowing more expensive and slow down the economy.

The P20 increase in the minimum wage is totally inadequate, given the rate at which food prices have risen.

The plight of the average Filipino worker is getting steadily worse but any further increase would probably result in more workers being laid off.

Senators and Congressmen have banded together to prevent the President from introducing the new taxes she needs desperately to reduce the budget deficit next year.

Without this additional revenue, the already bad situation can only get worse.

In an attempt to prevent a population explosion, I am off to have a vasectomy as my wife refuses to be irrigated.

I will tell you all about this next week when the humor returns. *mrbearbull@hotmail.com*

PBCom to sell ₱12.5B in NPAs

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINE Bank of Communications is set to bid out P12.5 billion worth of non-performing assets by the end of the month.

PBCom president Isidro Alcantara said in an interview that 12 groups have expressed serious interest in PBCom's assets, of which eight were conducting due diligence audits.

Alcantara said eight of the prospective bidders were foreign groups.

Of the total assets to be bid out, half consisted of non-performing loans and the rest are idle real estate assets.

Alcantara was optimistic that PBCom would be able to dispose its assets during the bidding covered by the Special Purpose Vehicle Act framework.

The SPV Law, which took effect in 2002, intends to help banks get rid of their NPAs by waiving some of the taxes and reducing fees usually collected from the sale or transfer of assets.

Joaquin Cunanan-KPMG is helping PBCom sell the assets to shore up the bank's finances.

PBCom earlier forged a P10.6-billion rehabilitation deal with the state-owned Philippine Deposit Insurance.

Under the agreement, shareholders will infuse an additional P3 billion while the PDIC will extend P7.6 billion in financial assistance.

The bank's three major stockholders are families Luy (37 percent), Nubla (28 percent) and Chung (26 percent).

The PDIC assistance will cover losses to be incurred from the sale of bad assets at just 20 percent of the market value.

PBCom expects to post P200 million-P1 billion in annual profit starting this year, following the implementation of the rehabilitation program.

Investments surge 590% . . .

From page B1

In the first six months, growth was seen across all sectors with the utilities sector cornering 78 percent of all new investments.

The official noted that the contract center industry continued to generate the biggest among information technology-based projects.

There were a total of P3.86 billion in call center investments in the first half, making up 83 percent of all new IT projects.

Of the projects committed from January to June, foreign capital amounted to P123.3 billion or 87 percent of the total while local investments made up P11.6 billion.

Data from the National Statistics Coordination Board showed that investments in the past four years have consistently declined from P207.88 billion in 2000 to P63.79 billion in 2003.

Foreign direct investments showed the same trend as it declined from P80.37 billion in 2000, P58.4 billion in 2001, P46.05 billion in 2002 and P34.01 billion in 2003.

Local investments amounted to P127.51 billion in 2000, P135.35 in 2001, P53.14 billion in 2002 and P29.78 billion in 2003. *Ronnel W. Domingo*

Exporter meets challenge to help alleviate poverty

By Michelle V. Remo

CORPORATE CITIZEN

IT WAS President Macapagal-Arroyo's call on the private sector to help alleviate poverty that stirred automotive parts firm Yazaki-Torres Manufacturing Inc. (YTMI) to action.

The Kabalikat sa Hanapbuhay, established in April 2002, was designed to develop individuals and communities by offering livelihood and skills training programs.

It is through the Kabalikat program that YTMI strives to give back to the community.

YTMI, which employs 9,000 people and generates P9.1 billion in revenue a year, is the country's biggest producer of wiring harness and the largest exporter of auto parts.

"This is our response to the President's call," said Sonia Torres-Aquino, YTMI director for community development. "Having a strong belief that we can make a difference is a good starting point."

Sewing to weaving

The courses offered varies from sewing to vocational-technical programs, weaving, wood crafting and the manufacture of gift items.

YTMI chose Tanauan, Malvar, Talisay and Sto. Tomas in Batangas and Calamba in Laguna as the initial beneficiaries of the program.

YTMI chose these communities as most of YTMI's employees are based in these areas.

To ensure that the trainees adopt a sustained and holistic development, the Kabalikat program puts a premium on instilling the value of self-reliance.

"Only half of our work is focused on giving them skills training," Aquino said. "The other half is dedicated to helping them find jobs or assist them in becoming entrepreneurs."

Helping in the noble work are the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (Tesda), local government units of the five beneficiary-communities and the Japanese Embassy.

While YTMI handles all the organizational and networking tasks, Tesda and the LGU partners provide the trainers, facilities and logistics and the Japanese Embassy helps in the source funds.

WOMEN IN Calamba learn to make holiday decorations.

One project organized by YTMI under the Kabalikat program was the Malvar Sewers' Training Center.

With an initial funding of P830,000 from the Japanese government, an extensive sewing course was offered to women, mostly mothers, from Malvar.

The local government of Malvar donated its old municipal hall to house the training center.

Training entrepreneurs

Last year, the Malvar Sewers' Training Center produced 253 graduates, some of whom landed jobs in garment factories in the Calabarzon area.

Others became entrepreneurs.

That training center has even developed into a business enterprise for the graduates, Aquino said.

The women now accept sewing contracts under the name of the Malvar Sewers' Training Center and roll over a share of their earnings to sustain business operations.

Part of what they give back to the training center is used to finance more sewing courses for more students.

Skilled workers

In technical and vocational skills training, Kabalikat has produced 283 graduates last year from the communities of Calamba, Tanauan and Malvar.

Courses given covered the fields of automotive, electronics and electricity, Aquino said.

"YTMI is pleased to say that many of our tech-voc graduates who used to have difficulty looking for jobs are now employed and earning a decent living," Aquino said.

A number of graduates have landed jobs in companies like Asia Brewery, Sensus Garments and Toyota Philippines.

To help the graduates earn, Kabalikat would also use its network to assist them in looking for buyers of their products.

Their products are now a favorite of some companies looking for giveaway items for the holidays.

Aquino said YTMI buys its own giveaways from Kabalikat graduates, some of whom have already formed cooperatives and formalized their businesses.

YTMI even put up a shopping center in its manufacturing plant in Calamba.

Aquino said YTMI hopes to continue with the Kabalikat program, and eventually expand it to cover more communities.

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SEPTEMBER 20 - 24, 2004

Program Overview

Finance for Senior Executives (FSE) is designed for the senior executive who is expected to contribute to the direction setting and general management of a company. It has been designed to provide an integrated perspective of the operations and performance of a firm, and, in particular, how business and management decisions affect the financial performance and value of a firm. The program focuses on the financial concepts underlying both strategic and operating decisions. It is particularly useful in enabling senior executives to develop an understanding of how each of the different functional areas affect and are affected by finance. With a focus on flexibility and inter-action, the program is structured in order to make the concepts accessible to executives with varying levels of familiarity with finance.

Program Content

- Assessing Financial Health
- Linking Financial Targets to Operations and Business Objectives
- Understanding the Dynamics of Financing Growth
- Financing Decisions and Corporate Finance
- Sources and Costs of Capital, Capital Structure
- Asian Equities, Cross Border Financing & International Financial Markets
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Program Faculty

Professor Maya Herrera is the Program Director of Finance for Senior Executives (FSE). In addition to her academic responsibilities, she is Treasurer of AIM Scientific Research Fund, AIM's endowment arm and also formerly held the post of Chief Financial Officer of AIM. She is also a practicing actuary and consultant and is in the worldwide board of directors of Milliman Global, one of the largest financial services, health care and risk management consulting firms in the world. Her business experience includes stints as CEO of a consumer products company and a pre-need company, CFO of a large, multinational life insurance company and practice leader of a multinational consulting firm. Her current research focus is strategic measuring as a tool for organization performance management and development. She has a Master's degree in Actuarial Mathematics from the University of Michigan.

Professor Grace S. Ugut, Ph.D. is the Assistant Dean of Executive Education and Lifelong Learning (EXCELL) and Program Director of Course for Senior Bank Managers, ABA Bank Management Course. Her business experience includes a vice presidency at a large multinational bank as well as partnership in a leading multinational financial services and audit consultancies. One of her major areas of research is the measurement and management of financial risk. She holds a Master in Business Administration from the University of Mississippi and a Doctor of Philosophy in International Finance from the University of Economics.

Professor Teodoro Ma. P. Dizon is the Director of the Basic Management Program (BMP). He is a practicing consultant with particular expertise in financial and management accounting, estate management and tax advice. His business experience derives from having been partner at one of the leading financial services consulting and audit firms in Asia. He earned his Master in Business Administration, major in Accounting and Finance at the J.L. Kellogg Graduate School of Management of Northwestern University.

Professor Victoria S. Licuanan is the Institute's Associate Dean for Faculty and Academics and core faculty of the Executive Education and Lifelong Learning Center (EXCELL). She is a consultant on economics and project development of numerous organizations. Her areas of specialization are monetary economics, financial markets and international finance. Her other areas of expertise include leadership and teambuilding, negotiations, game theory, women managers, women in development, and small and medium businesses. She is a PhD candidate in Economics. She specialized in monetary and international economics at Harvard University under a Fulbright-Hays Scholarship, a Harvard University Fellowship and an Earhart Foundation Fellowship.

Prof. Enrico C. Angtuaco is on the core faculty of the W.SyCip Graduate School of Business (WSGSB) where he handles management accounting and control, finance, statistics, quantitative analysis, marketing, management games, problem and decision analyses, strategy formulation and implementation, and computer applications. His consultancies include banks, telecommunication companies, pharmaceutical firms, retailing businesses, personal care product manufacturers, financial institutions, food manufacturers, transportation outfits, cargo services, religious organizations, research foundations, and non-profit groups. He holds a Master in Business Management at the Asian Institute of Management.

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MAKATI

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QUEZON CITY

Nr Quezon Blvd Studio P3.5T 3738989 / 4563754 / 9317159

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Grocery, Rice, Poultry Store Canteen 9291235 Edsa QC

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2% W/O TAKING CAR 3677523/24

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1.5% CARLOAN 373-6519

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1.5% Easy Carloan 7815352/55

1.5% Fast Car Loan 6560140

1.5% Fast Car Loan 6567685

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3732081-82

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3650974/75

1.5% w/oTaking Car 7228942-43

•1HR Fast Car Loan 7125202•

2% w/o Taking Car 7262780

2% w/o taking car 7880183-84

2% w/oTaking Car 8966630/33

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Car 8959454

2% w/oTaking Car 8870490/95

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Angeles CT Gamefowls, Bulls etc 0458877650/09179619238

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PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is given that the estate of the late ELMER A. ASUNCION has been extrajudicially settled among his parents under Doc. #44 Page #10 Book #32 Series of 2004 of Notary Public Atty. Sinag O. Villareal of Antipolo City (PDI-Aug. 3, 10 & 17, 2004)

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MALE/FEMALE

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE/FEMALE

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NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that **Mr. Adrien Jesus S. Luntao** was elected as a member of the Board of Directors of **TEEKAY SHIPPING PHILIPPINES, INC.** effective on 18 June 2004.

TEEKAY SHIPPING PHILIPPINES, INC.
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National Power Corporation

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

NPC-MMSD 2004-014

The Bids and Awards Committee (BAC)-MMSD of NPC invites interested bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following requirements.

Schedule	Date/Time & Place of Bidding	Item Description	PR No/Inquiry No.	ABC
I	August 31, 2004 10:00 A.M. Peñafrancia Room	Portable Single-Phase Reference Standard for WMTSD	PB040720-MMKR1242 (PB2)	1,300,000.00
II		Mechanical Parts for PB 109 "Dale Perkins" Diesel Engine	PB040831-MMAM1457	2,310,086.26
III		Mechanical Parts for Puerto Princesa DPP "Pielstick"	PB040831-MMAM1458	4,935,690.00
IV	August 31, 2004 2:00 P.M. Peñafrancia Room	Mechanical Parts for Tablas DPP "MAN"	PB040831-MMAM1459	2,200,000.00
V		Mechanical Parts for Casiguran DPP "MAN"	PB040720-MMSB1240 (PB2)	1,853,197.00
VI		Mechanical Parts for Marinawa DPP "CKD"	PB040831-MMAD1460	11,358,591.90
VII	September 1, 2004 10:00 A.M. Pahiyas Room	Mechanical Parts for Marinawa DPP "GM"	PB040901-MMAD1461	8,276,900.00
VIII		Mechanical Parts for Bantayan DPP "Man"	PB040901-MMJP1462	2,000,000.00

NOTE : A pre-bidding Conference will be held for the following bidding schedules:

Schedule	Date	Time	Place
All Schedules	Aug. 17, 2004	2:00 P.M.	Peñafrancia Function Room

Complete sets of Application form for Eligibility and Bid Documents may be obtained from the Materials Management Services Division, Materials Management Dept., of NPC, Diliman, Quezon City with Tel. No. 924-53-57 / 924-54-77 upon payment of non-refundable fee of PHP500.00 per schedule starting on August 4, 2004, from 8:30 to 11:30 A.M. only. No bid documents will be issued 3 days before the date of bidding.

Bids will be received at the assigned Bidding Room, MMSD, MMD, NPC, Diliman, Quezon City on the date and time specified above after which Eligibility Requirements and Bid Proposals will be opened in the presence of attending bidders. Certificate of Registration issued by PSD/MMSD will be honored provided that the Certification is still valid.

Prospective Bidders shall signify conformance to bidding terms and conditions as required and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution in accordance with the IRR of Republic Act No. 9184.

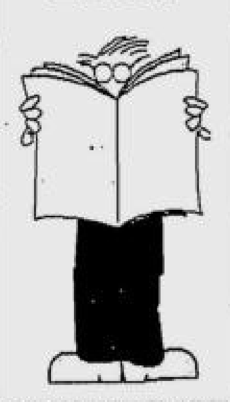
The Bidder shall furnish as part of his/her bid, a bid security in the amount equivalent to a percentage of the approved budget for the contract to be bid in the form of Cash, Manager's/Cashier's Check, Irrevocable Letter of Credit – One Percent (1%), Bank Guarantee – One and a half percent (1.5%), Surety Bond – Two and a half percent (2.5%, penal and callable on demand issued by a Surety or Insurance Company accredited by the office of the Insurance Commission.

NPC reserves the right to reject any or all bids at any time prior to award of contract, waive any defects therein, and accept the offer most advantageous to the Corporation, without thereby incurring any of the following: a) liability whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of the bids and b) obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for the basis of the BAC's action.

(Sgd.) LORENZO S. MARCELO
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee
MMSD-NPC

(PDI – August 3 & 10, 2004)

WHERE YOU FIND THE BEST.



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PORO POINT MANAGEMENT CORPORATION

A Subsidiary of Bases Conversion Development Authority

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

CONSTRUCTION OF THE PORO POINT COMMERCIAL COMPLEX (PPCC) BOARDWALK

The Poro Point Management Corporation (PPMC) invites interested contractors, with a license of at least Medium A (Park, Playground and Recreational Work) as accredited by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB), to submit Application for Eligibility, and subsequently to bid, if eligible, for the Construction of PPCC Boardwalk, Poro Point Special Economic and Freeport Zone, Poro, San Fernando City, La Union.

The Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) of P11,150,000.00 shall come from PPMC corporate funds.

Eligibility Forms shall be made available to interested contractors on the date and place mentioned below upon payment of a non-refundable amount of two thousand five hundred pesos (P2,500.00).

Schedule of Procurement Activities:

Activity	Dates	Time	Place
Issuance of Eligibility Statement Form	August 25, 2004	8AM to 5PM	PPMC Office, Pennsylvania Ave., San Fernando City, La Union
Deadline of Submission of Letter of Intent and Eligibility Statement Form	September 1, 2004	12:00 noon	PPMC Office, Pennsylvania Ave., San Fernando City, La Union
Issuance of Instructions to Bidders and other Bid Documents	September 24, 2004	8AM to 5PM	PPMC Office, Pennsylvania Ave., San Fernando City, La Union
Pre-Bid Conference and Site Inspection	September 27, 2004	2:00 PM	Pre-Departure Area, Terminal Building, San Fernando Airport, Canaoay, San Fernando City, La Union
Submission and Opening of Bids	October 8, 2004	9:00 AM	Pre-Departure Area, Terminal Building, San Fernando Airport, Canaoay, San Fernando City, La Union

Application for Eligibility shall be evaluated using "PASS/FAIL" criteria, subject to a short listing by PPMC. Thus, only eligible and subsequently short listed firms shall be invited to participate in the bidding. All Bids shall be evaluated in accordance with RA 9184 and its IRR-A.

Should you need any further information or clarification regarding the Project, you may contact Engr. Virgilio M. Salayog at Telephone No. (072) 242-5638.

(Sgd.) ANTHONY C. MANGUIAT
Chairman, BAC

(PDI - Aug. 10 & 17, 2004)

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"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served,
but to serve." ***Mark 10:45***

Like a shepherd tending his flock, Nestor C. Ponce, Jr., aimed to be a servant to and for the people. A family man and good practicing Christian, he firmly believed in less talk and more action. In spite of the lure of worldly conquests and the glamour of wealth and power, he kept his vision and values clear and intact, and chose to live his life in simplicity, humility and service to others. A man of few words, this man of action was clearly running a different race – a race where a grace-filled heart and a soul generated by love prevailed. In the process of serving the needs of our less fortunate brothers and sisters, this action-oriented servant thus became a great and respected leader.

NESTOR C. PONCE, JR.

Born September 12, 1950
joined his Creator on August 8, 2004
at the age of 53.

His loving wife **Evangeline Ladores Ponce**
His caring children **Jan Abigail**, **Nestor III**, and **Maita Angeli Ponce**
His loving mother **Honorata C. Ponce**
and siblings, relatives, in-laws and friends,
request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Superior Chapel, La Funeraria Paz,
Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment Mass will be at the Funeraria Paz on Saturday,
August 14, 2004 at 8 o'clock in the morning.
Interment follows at the Loyola Memorial Park in Marikina.

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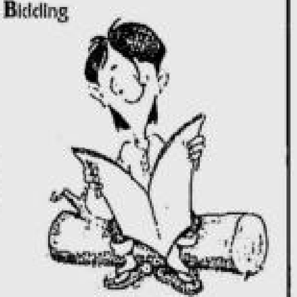

"I am
the way,
the truth
and
the life.
No one
comes
to the
Father
except
through
Me."

John 14:6

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)
WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS
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RENE ANTONIO DEL MAR GALANG

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on August 9, 2004 at the age of 58.

His beloved wife Violy; children Rene and Rowena;
siblings Ramon, Ronaldo, Remedios Cecilia and Regina;
grandchildren, in-laws, and friends and relatives
request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state in Chapel H, 2nd floor, Funeraria Paz,
G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Cremation will be on August 11 (Wednesday) at 11:00 a.m.
Interment will follow at Mt. Carmel Parish Church,
Quezon City.

Sir Knight CRISTOBAL SUMAGUE CONDUCTO

Past District Deputy, Past Grand Knight
Knights of Columbus

Peacefully joined his Creator
on August 9, 2004 at the age of 84.

His beloved wife **Esperanza**; only child **Celia**;
son-in-law **Alfonso**; grandchildren **Maria Licel**,
Maria Karen, **Maria Cristina**, **Paolo Jose**
and **Marco Alfonso Cristobal**; brothers and sisters,
nephews and nieces, relatives and friends
request your prayers for the eternal repose
of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the **Conducto Residence**,
P. Gomez Street, San Pablo City, Laguna.

Interment will be on **Thursday, August 12, 2004**
at the **Loyola Memorial Gardens**,
San Pablo City, after the 9:00 a.m. Mass
at **St. Paul the First Hermit Cathedral**.

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CLASSIFIEDS

51 students enrolled through Farmer's Edge

THIS ACADEMIC Year 2004-2005, a total of 51 students enrolled anew or continued their studies after Farmer's Edge, the quality brand of Fil-Am Foods, Inc., had concluded its often imitated but never duplicated *"Tuition Regalo 4, Pagaang Buhay Bigay ng Farmer's Edge."* The company gave out a total of Php 510,000 worth of cash prizes to help her loyal users in providing tuition fees to the children of the end-users in time for the opening of the classes.

The draw, was held at the Fil-Am Foods Office and Plant in Capas, Tarlac on May 31 at 3:30 in the afternoon.

The promo has been running for four years now since its initial conception in 1999.

The Sales and Marketing Department started the promotion of *"Tuition Regalo 4, Pagaang Buhay Bigay ng Farmer's Edge"* last March 22, 2004 to May 23, 2004. Farmer's Edge's dealers, sub-dealers, and employees were not allowed to join the *pa-raffle*. The raiser has only to buy ten kilos of feeds in order for him to avail a coupon which can be a key to the door of the child's education. The raffle draw was especially dedicated to the loyal customers- *ANG MGA KATUWANG SA PANGARAP!*, of the Farmer's Edge.

Farmer's Edge will always be of help in realizing the visions and aspirations of her end-users not only in education but also in building a strong family relationship.

Fil-Am Foods, the maker of Farmer's Edge brand of high quality feed, is a total animal-nutrition solution company owned by Aboitiz group through Pilmico Foods Corporation. The feed manufacturing plant is located in Capas, Tarlac. It also has a swine breeding and finishing operations in barangays Aranguren and Cut-cut, also in Capas, Tarlac.

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Seminary to celebrate founding anniversary

THE MARIA Assumpta Seminary in Cabanatuan City will be celebrating its 40th founding anniversary this Sunday, Aug. 15 through a thanksgiving mass at 9 a.m. which will be officiated by Bishop Oscar A. Solis, the Auxiliary Bishop of Los Angeles, California. Bishop Solis, an alumnus of Maria Assumpta Seminary, is the first Filipino priest to be ordained bishop in the United States. The diocese of Cabanatuan City through Bishop Sofronio A. Bancud, is asking the faithfuls to be involved in this celebration through fervent prayers, offerings and continuous support.

NFA 'Palengke Watch' in full swing nationwide

THE NATIONAL Food Authority's Palengke Watch has effectively been policing the ranks of rice retailers as the agency's monitoring teams continue to apprehend rice sellers found violating grains trading rules and regulations.

As of July 21, a total of 95 violations have been reported. These include 63 retailers found selling rice without NFA license; 13 outlets with expired licenses; 6 outlets not displaying the NFA license; and 4 found diverting NFA stocks. Other violations include overpricing; unreasonable depletion of stocks; 3 violations of the Philippine Grains Standardization Program (PGSP); storing commercial rice in Bigasan ni Gloria sa Palengke outlets; selling NFA rice by bags; and unauthorized possession of NFA rice.

Since the launching of the Palengke Watch, the NFA has monitored 1,489 rice retailers in Manila, Quezon City, Cavite, San Juan and the North, South and East districts of Metro Manila. The NFA has deployed a total of 142 monitoring individuals visiting minor and major public markets.

In other parts of the country, the food agency's Palengke Watch teams are also undertaking regular market visits to make sure that good quality NFA rice is available at affordable price.

For more information on the agency's Palengke Watch program, the public may use the Text NFA program by texting their inquiries to cellphone number 0917-6210927 or call the Public Affairs' hotline number (0632) 712-1305.

UNDP

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

Contracting of Consulting Services for Project ID 00014499 - Capacity Building to Remove Barriers to Renewable Energy in the Philippines (CBRED) Project

The Development Support Services Center (DSSC) of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) invites local consultants to apply for eligibility and to bid for the various subcontracts of the project "UNDP-GEF-DOE Project ID 00014499 -Capacity Building to Remove Barriers to Renewable Energy in the Philippines (CBRED) Project".

The CBRED Project aims to reduce the annual growth rate of greenhouse gas emissions by replacing part of the current fossil fuel use in the Philippines through the removal of major barriers to renewable energy (RE) that will lead to the development and widespread utilization of renewable energy systems / applications. Specific objectives of the project includes: (1) strengthening the capacity of relevant Government of the Philippines (GOP) agencies to formulate, enact, and implement sound new and renewable energy (NRE) policies; (2) providing NRE information for targeted audiences to build markets; (3) increasing coordination among organization concerned with NRE; (4) assisting market penetration of NRE in remote off-grid communities; and (5) improving quality of NRE technologies and systems.

The project is subdivided into six (6) components, namely: (1) RE Policy, Planning, and Institutional Capacity Building, (2) RE Market Service Institutionalisation, (3) RE Information and Promotion Services, (4) RE Initiatives Delivery and Financing Mechanisms, (5) RE Training Program, and (6) RE Technology Support.

To be able to attain said objectives, the project requires the services of subcontractors who shall undertake each of the following components:

A. Contract 1 – RE Advocacy and Promotion Campaign Technical Assistance

Under this component, the project seeks to develop strong consciousness and arouse the interest of stakeholders on the benefits and advantages of RE sources and technologies, and envisions to result in the active involvement, advocacy and commitment of the private sector and the non-governmental groups, co-financing institutions (CFIs) and the policy / law makers towards increased flow of investments in the practical applications of RE installations.

Scope of work of the subcontractor shall be to (a) conduct scoping study on the communication and promotional needs of the CBRED project, the Market Service Center (MSC), and the DOE's Renewable Energy Program; (b) review and evaluate the Public Awareness Program and Information Dissemination Studies conducted and the promotional inputs of the various CBRED subcontracts; (c) develop an RE promotion and commercialization program; (d) develop a monitoring and evaluation framework to assess the effectiveness and efficiency of the program and strategies; and (e) design and produce the initial run of tri-media information kits and other IEC materials.

B. Contract 2 – RE Policy and Market Development Studies

This component seeks to address the policy and energy planning barriers as well as the institutional issues affecting the development and implementation of RE projects in the country.

This subcontract will involve the provision of technical advice in the review of existing RE-related policies and regulations in the country, as well as those from other countries regarding energy resource development and utilization, with the aim at promoting and supporting RE. It will also evaluate possible policy support activities and strategies that can be considered for RE project developers and investors. Appropriate recommendations shall be summarized and prioritised according to readiness for implementation of action that needs to be taken to address the concerns.

The studies and activities to be undertaken under this subcontract shall strengthen the RE Bill provisions aimed at enhancing RE contribution to the national energy supply. The subcontract shall likewise formulate resource and/or market specific strategies based on a comprehensive evaluation of the RE market requirements and competitive position of the various RE resources.

Bidders may submit proposal for any one, any combination, or all of the above-mentioned contracts.

For interested parties, Bid Documents (Eligibility Requirements, Instructions to Bidders and Terms of Reference) may be secured personally, upon payment of a non-refundable amount of PhP 1,000.00 for each Contract from the following address :

**Development Support Services Center
United Nations Development Programme
7th Floor, NEDA sa Makati Building
106 Amorsolo Street, Legaspi Village, 1229 Makati City
Tel. No. (632) 892 0611 loc. 275
Fax No. (632) 816-4061 / 893-9598**

The abovementioned Bid Documents will be released to all interested participants starting 13 August 2004 to 20 August 2004 only. The Bid Documents shall contain all instructions on the rules, procedures, dates and other schedules for the pre-bid conference and opening of bid envelopes, as well as further details on the scope of services required.

UNDP reserves the right to reject any or all the bids, waive any defect or informality therein, accept the bid and award the contract to the most advantageous offer to the UNDP, for and in behalf of the Department of Energy. UNDP assumes no responsibility to compensate or indemnify the bidder for any expense or loss that may be incurred for the preparation of bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) **ETHELIND B. CAPUNO**
Manager, DSSC

(PDI–August 10, 2004)

UNDP

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FROM INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT

Contracting of Consulting Services for Project ID 00014499 - Capacity Building to Remove Barriers to Renewable Energy in the Philippines (CBRED) Project

The Development Support Services Center (DSSC) of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) invites local / international consultants to apply for eligibility and to bid for the various activities of the project "UNDP-GEF-DOE Project ID 00014499 -Capacity Building to Remove Barriers to Renewable Energy in the Philippines (CBRED) Project".

The CBRED Project aims to reduce the annual growth rate of greenhouse gas emissions by replacing part of the current fossil fuel use in the Philippines through the removal of major barriers to renewable energy (RE) that will lead to the development and widespread utilization of renewable energy systems / applications. Specific objectives of the project includes: (1) strengthening the capacity of relevant Government of the Philippines (GOP) agencies to formulate, enact, and implement sound new and renewable energy (NRE) policies; (2) providing NRE information for targeted audiences to build markets; (3) increasing coordination among organization concerned with NRE; (4) assisting market penetration of NRE in remote off-grid communities; and (5) improving quality of NRE technologies and systems.

The project is subdivided into six (6) components, namely: (1) Policy, Planning, and Institutional Capacity Building, (2) Market Service Institutionalisation, (3) Information and Promotion Services, (4) RE Initiatives Delivery and Financing Mechanisms, (5) Training Program, and (6) RE Technology Support.

To be able to attain said objectives, the project requires the services of local / international consultants who shall undertake each of the following components:

A. National Consultant on RE Planning and Modelling

This component shall be involved in the conduct of necessary policy and project planning support activities such as improved planning models, processes and tools to assist both government planners and private project developers in the conduct of RE planning and program / project development.

The national consultant is expected to (a) provide support to the RE Economist / Modeller on the development / adoption of an Integrated Energy Planning Model, which will systematically incorporate DOE's and other agencies' / organizations' plans on RE; and (b) develop / improve RE-based electrification planning models.

B. International Consultant on RE Equipment Manufacturing (Advisor)

This component is prioritizing RE systems and equipment for standardization, as well as providing technology development assistance to small- and medium-scale, investor-type manufacturers and technology integrators that have the greatest potential for market growth in the Philippines.

The international consultant is expected to (a) provide advice regarding the activities / outputs of the various subcontracts under Component 6 of the CBRED Project; (b) design and provide trainings to RE manufacturers, fabricators, systems integrators, engineering firms, RE equipment testing centers and project implementers in the "Design, Manufacture, Production and Systems Management, and Performance Testing of RE Equipment and Systems"; and (c) develop sustainability frameworks and IEC activities to harmonize and integrate activities and outputs of the various subcontracts under Component 6.

C. International Consultant on RE Economist / Modeller

This component shall be involved in the conduct of necessary policy and project planning support activities such as improved planning models, processes and tools to assist both government planners and private project developers in the conduct of RE planning and program / project development.

The international consultant is expected to (a) develop an Integrated Energy Planning Model; and (b) direct and guide the development / improvement of RE-based electrification planning models.

Interested parties must submit their letters of interest, together with their curriculum vitaes (CV's), starting 10 August 2004 to 16 August 2004 only, to the following address :

**Development Support Services Center
United Nations Development Programme
7th Floor, NEDA sa Makati Building
106 Amorsolo Street, Legaspi Village, 1229 Makati City
Tel. No. (632) 892 0611 loc. 275
Fax No. (632) 816-4061 / 893-9598**

Bid Documents will be released to shortlisted candidates starting 18 August 2004. The Bid Documents shall contain all instructions on the rules, procedures, dates and other schedules, as well as further details on the scope of services required.

UNDP reserves the right to reject any or all the bids, waive any defect or informality therein, accept the bid and award the contract to the most advantageous offer to the UNDP, for and in behalf of the Department of Energy. UNDP assumes no responsibility to compensate or indemnify the bidder for any expense or loss that may be incurred for the preparation of bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) **ETHELIND B. CAPUNO**
Manager, DSSC

(PDI–August 10, 2004)

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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Finance
COMMUNITY-BASED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROJECT
CBRMP

INVITATION FOR CONSULTANCY SERVICES

1. The Department of Finance through its Community Based Resource Management Project (CBRMP) has received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), now invites eligible consulting firm to indicate their interest in providing the services for "PROJECT IMPACT EVALUATION".
2. The Project Impact Evaluation will be conducted in 83 Local Government Units (LGUs) in four (4) project regions namely: R5/Bicol, R8/Eastern Visayas, R7/Central Visayas, R13/Caraga. The services is expected to be completed within five (5) months upon receipt of Notice to Proceed. A Consulting Firm will be selected in accordance with the Quality Cost Based Selection Method.
3. Interested consulting firm must provide information such as company profile, brochure, description/experience of similar assignments, availability of appropriate skills among staff, etc. and may obtain further information at the address below from 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. from Mondays to Fridays. Expressions of Interest must be in writing and deliver to the address indicated below no later than August 23, 2004.

(Sgd.) **HELENA B. HABULAN**
Executive Director
Municipal Development Finance Office
Podium, Department of Finance,
BSP Complex,
Roxas Boulevard, Manila
Tel. No. (02) 521-7195/Fax (02) 521-7192

(PDI - Aug. 10, 2004)

TransCo
National Transmission Corporation
South Luzon Operations and Maintenance

July 29, 2004

INVITATION FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The National Transmission Corporation, South Luzon Operation and Maintenance invites interested Filipino contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the proposed project/undertaking:

Project No.	Contract Code/Title	Location	Duration	Approved Budget for the Contract	Source of Budget	License and Registration Particulars Issued by PCAB
1.	Trans-04-CAPLT-EG-16 Construction of Additional Perimeter Lighting at Tayabas S/S	Tayabas, Quezon	60 calendar days	Php 2,584,492.21	Internal Cash Generation (ICG)	– At least *"D & C, Gen. Building"* – At least *"Small B, Building" and Industrial Plant" (Power Transmission and Distribution*

Prospective bidders must have at least completed a single contract similar to the contract to be bid where the major component of works involving supply and installation of electrical wirings and lightings for buildings and houses.

Applications for Eligibility (legal, technical and financial documents and statements) shall be evaluated using "PASS/FAIL" criteria and only Eligible Bidders shall be invited by NTC in the bidding. All bids equal to or lower than the Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid shall be evaluated based on the responsiveness of the contractor's offer to the contract under bidding; and shall be subject to Postqualification before an award is made. Bid Prices submitted higher than the Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid shall be rejected and returned outright.

Application for Eligibility and Eligibility Forms will be available for issuance starting August 2, 2004 up to August 20, 2004 at the: Regional Contracts Management Office, Administration Division, NTC, South Luzon Operation and Maintenance, San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna, Telefax No. 520-8213 and E-mail Address (grlistano@transco.ph) upon presentation of Letter of Intent, original PCAB License and payment of a non-refundable fee of P600.00 per copy per project.

Deadline for submission of duly accomplished Application for Eligibility, Eligibility Forms, documents and statements shall be on or before 5:00 P.M. of August 23, 2004 which shall be submitted at the office address mentioned above. Opening and Eligibility Screening shall be held on August 24, 2004, 9:00 A.M. If the date is a non-working day or declared non-working day, the deadline for submission shall be moved to the next working day immediately following said date. Late submission and/or incomplete application shall not be accepted.

Prospective bidders shall signify conformance to bidding terms and conditions as required and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution. The procurement rules and regulations used in this infrastructure project shall be in accordance with the implementing rules and regulations of "R.A. 9184."

NTC reserves the right to reject any Application for Eligibility or all bids without offering any reasons, waive any required formality therein, and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the government.

Additional information shall be furnished upon request. All communication should be addressed to the undersigned at the aforementioned address.

(Sgd.) **G. R. LISTANO**
Dept. Manager, PSMD North and
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - August 10, 2004)

NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION
Diliman, Quezon City

INVITATION TO BID FOR THE SALE OF SCRAP / JUNK ITEMS

"AS IS, WHERE IS" BASIS

DATE OF BIDDING : **August 24, 2004, 2:00 PM,** Solarium Multi-Purpose Hall, Building-1 Ground Floor NPC-Head Office, Agham Road corner Quezon Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City.

The National Power Corporation will conduct public bidding of the following items:

	Item Description and Location	Minimum Bid Price
1.	One (1) lot of unserviceable and used laboratory and office equipment, electronic devices such as; computers, printers, projector, plotter, typewriters, calculators, fax-machines, drafting-machines, broken-tables, broken-chairs, and worn-out automotive spare parts, discarded electrical-wirings and fixtures located at NPC Head Office Warehouse, Quezon City, at NPC Port Area Warehouse, Manila, and at NPC Mexico Central Warehouse, Pampanga Province.	P 202,200.00/lot
2.	One (1) lot of unserviceable and used conveyor belts, air-heater-coils, assorted scrap metals such as boiler-tubes, air-heater-elements, wire-ropes, angle bars, etc., and used office equipment located at BCFTPP, Calaca, Batangas Province.	P 251,600.00/lot
3.	One (1) lot of unserviceable and junk air-heater-elements, and assorted scrap metals like pipes, plates, angle bars and aluminum, Located at Malaya TPP, Pililia, Rizal Province.	P 227,500.00/lot
4.	One (1) lot of Industrial Chemicals, consisting of Hydro-Chloric-Acid (HCl) 35% and Sodium-Hydroxide (NaOH), 50%, Located at BTPP, Barangay Luz, Limay, Bataan Province.	P 43,200.00/lot

ALL BIDS MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE FOLLOWING:

1. **PROPOSAL BOND DEPOSIT IN THE FORM OF CASH OR MANAGER'S/CASHIER'S CHECK EQUIVALENT TO TEN PERCENT (10%) OF THE TOTAL BID PRICE.**
2. **LATEST INCOME TAX RETURN 2003 ORIGINAL (OR CERTIFIED XEROX COPY) FOR THE BIDDER OR AN AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENT (ORIGINAL) OF THE COMPANY.**

All interested parties who wish to secure bid forms for this public bidding must present a valid Tax Identification Card or Income Tax Return.

Interested parties who wish to participate in the public bidding may secure the bid form at P500.00/set from S.V. Lomuntad, Jr. at Bldg. 1, Ground Floor, NPC Head Office, Corner Agham Road and Quezon Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City or call telephone no. 924-5384. **Deadline for issuance of the bid forms is until 4:30 PM Aug. 16, 2004.**

For the Materials Management Department
(Sgd.) **FELIX B. TACATA, JR.**
OIC, MMD

(PDI-August 10, 11 & 12, 2004)

Associated British Foods
and
Quiz Bee Foundation
25th
Ovaltine

Ovaltine Power Quiz Bee Presentor

**Associated British Foods thru its brand Ovaltine Power is this year's partner and presentor of the Quiz Bee Foundation (QBF) for the 25th National Super Quiz Bee. Shown in photo during the partnership agreement are (from left), Ovaltine Power product manager Mr. Marco Antonio Torres, Associated British Foods (ABF) president and CEO, Mr. Vivek Chandra, ABF marketing manager Regina Pineda, QBF president Mrs. Gay Palarca – Tayag, QBF vice president Pettizou P. Tayag and Auvena Lacsam, QBF senior marketing officer. Ovaltine Power is the official mind and body energy drink of the smart kids in the 25th National Super Quiz Bee. For more information, email quizbee@edsamail.com.ph or log on to www.quizbee.net
For reference, please call Ms. Pettizou P. Tayag at 7120682.**

The Manila Philharmonic Orchestra 2004-2005 Season Concert Series

The Manila Philharmonic Orchestra and The Heritage Hotel signed contract last July 19 at the hotel's The Riviera Restaurant. Seen in the photo are The Heritage Hotel's General Manager Mr. Peter Kan (left) and Manila Philharmonic Orchestra's Founder and Music Director Maestro Rodel F. Colmenar (right). The Heritage Hotel is the official residence of the season's international and local artists. The Season will start in September and will culminate in March. This concert promises a grander and bolder production inspired by the triumphant shows last year. This is an annual staging of MPO aside from the other private and corporate projects throughout the year. MPO will enliven its Filipino audience and with the help of our corporate partners like The Heritage Hotel, The MPO will continue to make beautiful music.

The best companies need the best people.

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Editor Aries Espinosa

Ingasco switches on today

NORIKAZU Ishikawa, president and chief executive officer of Ingasco Inc and founding president of the Philippine Confederation of Industrial Gases Inc, executive vice president, Hirosuke Matsueda of Nippon Sanso Corp of Japan, Raymond Chu, Ingasco EVP and COO, and Ma. Teresa Almendral, Ingasco treasurer, will lead top Philippine government officials and esteemed clients and friends of Ingasco at the formal inauguration and switch-on ceremonies of their newly completed air separation plant at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel today, Aug. 10.

Ingasco Inc has completed the installation and commissioning of its expanded air separation plant, effectively doubling its cryogenic liquid production capacity to almost 300 tons per day.

Heeding government's call to provide the vital utility inputs to emergent and critical industries, Ingasco embarked on a full expansion program, starting off with the completion of its nitrogen liquefier plant in San Jose, Batangas. The nitrogen liquefier plant, together with the air separation plant, increases Ingasco's production capacity of liquid nitrogen, liquid oxygen and liquid argon. These gases are used by industries such as the semiconductor and electronics, petrochemical, oil refinery, pharmaceutical, steel and metal and other industries.

Ingasco's plants are conveniently located for easy access to major users in the various technoparks in the greater Luzon and Manila area: the cryogenic air separation plant producing liquid nitrogen, liquid oxygen and liquid argon and its gas mixing facility is in San Jose, Batangas, while its hydrogen plant is in San Simon, Pampanga.

Ingasco Inc is a joint venture subsidiary of Nippon Sanso Corp of Japan, one of the world's leading manufacturers of industrial gases and related equipment, as well as state-of-the-art air separation plants with highly advanced technologies.

Competitio
2003
ding of Wi
April 14, 2004
Mig Cafe
6:00

SMC SCRAP-TO-ART WINNER

Dasmarinas Relocation Congressional High School student Wenzell Vaughn Pestano (2nd from left) won the grand prize in the San Miguel Packaging Product's Scrap-to-Art Contest with his entry 'The Horse'. Pestano used recycled plastic PET (polyethylene terephthalate) bottles to create his work of art. SMPP, a San Miguel Corp subsidiary, held the contest among high school students in selected areas in Metro Manila, Pampanga, Cavite, Metro Cebu and Metro Davao to encourage recycling as a means to preserve the environment. Shown are SMPP assistant vice president and finance manager Elizabeth Mercado (2nd from right) and SMPP vice president and cluster manager Jose Ma. P. Zanza (right) awarding the P30,000 cash prize and trophy to Pestano and audio-visual equipment for his school. DRCHS principal Emmanuel C. Resurreccion (left) was also present during the awarding ceremony.

Losartan lessens stroke risk

HIGH blood pressure remains the leading risk factor for stroke. Although stroke is multifactorial, reducing the blood pressure in a hypertensive individual is the single most important treatment strategy that can cut down the risk of developing a stroke. A stroke results in permanent damage to the brain tissue-and in many cases, permanent disability for the patient. This is the reason for a need for an antihypertensive drug that is not only effective in lowering the blood pressure but can also reduce other complications of hypertension.

One of the drugs proven to lessen the risk of stroke among hypertensive patients is losartan. In the landmark Losartan Intervention for Endpoint Reduction in Hypertension (LIFE) trial published in Lancet, it showed that the drug reduces the risk of fatal and nonfatal stroke by as much as 25 percent compared to the beta-blocker atenolol.

This cerebrovascular or brain protective benefit in patients treated with losartan was greater than has been observed in trials of varying hypertensive patient populations in comparison to other antihypertensive drugs such as calcium channel blocker, beta-blocker and diuretic.

The superior risk reduction in stroke with losartan versus atenolol in the LIFE study suggests an important role for losartan in patients with hypertension beyond the effects of blood-pressure reduction alone.

Affordability of losartan has also been addressed with the recent introduction of a new brand of losartan, which has been shown to be bioequivalent as the innovator brand. The new brand, priced at approximately half the cost of the other brands of this class of drugs, is expected to help patients sustain treatment for their high blood pressure, which is necessary for the patient to enjoy long-term benefits.

The use of losartan in the management of hypertension should improve the chances of hypertensive patients against stroke. At present, stroke remains to be the third leading cause of death and a leading cause of serious, long-term disability in the United States. According to the American Heart Association, approximately 700,000 Americans suffer a stroke each year; about 25 percent of these strokes are fatal. Someone suffers a stroke every 45 seconds, and every 3.1 minutes someone dies of a stroke. Stroke is responsible for an estimated $40 billion in health-care costs and lost productivity each year.

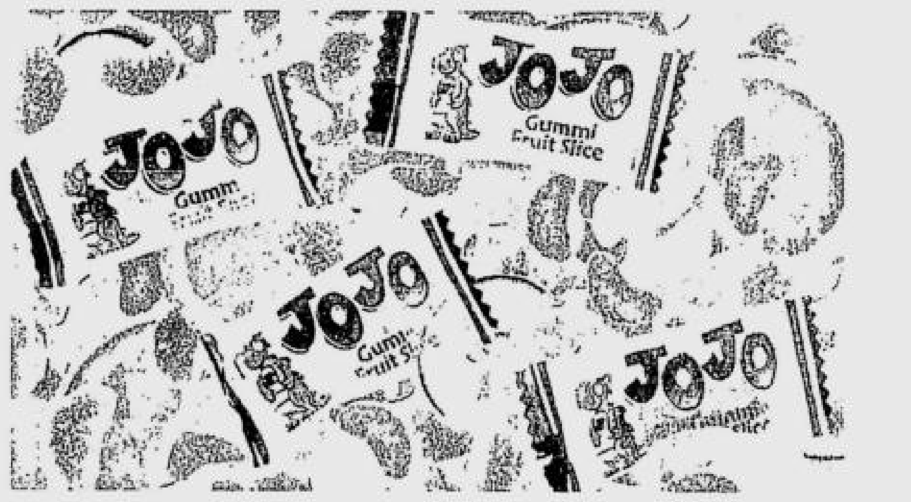
In the Philippines, although there are no clear-cut data on the socio-economic impact of stroke, it is estimated that a good percentage the more than 7 million hypertensive Filipinos is at an increased risk for stroke, which leads to either partial or complete disability.

EPLDT SIGNS MOA WITH CEU

ePLDT-the information and communication technology arm of the PLDT Group-through its Parlance and Vocativ Call Centers, recently forged an alliance with Centro Escolar University on the implementation of a customer service representative (CSR) training program for CEU's selected fourth year college students. This course focuses on call center fundamentals to equip students with the skills for prospective employment in ePLDT's call centers as CSRs. Shown during the contract signing are, seated, from left, r. Carmelita E. la'O, CEU senior vice president for business affairs, Dr. Rosita L. Navarro, CEU president, Rosalie R. Montenegro, PLDT senior vice president for call center business, and Letty G. Gonzalez, PLDT project manager. Standing, from left, are Juana Rosa F. Martinez, CEU coordinator, career placement section, Ma. Eleanor C. Espinas, CEU head, recruitment and placement department, Rosalie Simeon, PLDT recruitment division head, Dr. Carmina P. Catapang, CEU dean of school of tourism, family economics and nutrition, Dr. Luz I. Lucido, CEU dean of school of education, liberal arts, music and social work, and Dr. Mildred B. Go, CEU head, English department.

ProductFILES

Jojo Gummi candies add fun to playtime



PLAYTIME gives children the freedom to let their imaginations run wild while their creativity explores worlds that they themselves conjure. And what better companion to have during such times than a fun and colorful approach to candy?

Jojo Gummi candies come in a variety of shapes and colors that's sure to tickle a child's fancy. It's not just a pack of candy. It's a bag of jewels rescued from the claws of an evil pirate! It's a magical rock that transforms an ordinary child into a powerful superhero. The possibilities for fun are endless when Jojo Gummi candies are around.

In taste and texture, Jojo Gummi candies are truly beyond the ordinary, leaving a unique and lasting bite in the mouth-sweet, chewy, soft. Available in orange, lemon, lime, and pomelo flavors, these gummy fruit slices are also packed with citrus goodness. And because it comes from Universal Robina Corp, you're guaranteed that it's made of only the highest quality ingredients.

Jojo Gummi Candy is initially available in supermarkets Luzon-wide.

Asiaco DesignBuild 2004 nominee

ASIACO Enterprises International Corp, the leader in kitchen and closet organizers and pioneer in kitchen wire baskets, recently impressed visitors at the DesignBuild 2004, the premier exhibition of home and building design and construction technologies held at the Melbourne Exhibit Center, Australia.

The company, which represented the Philippines in the international trade show, was nominated for the Most Innovative Product Award. Showcased at the exhibit were Asiaco's best-selling products like the stackable organizers, stainless steel pullout wire baskets, closet accessories, aluminum and stainless steel modular cabinets and wall-mounted kitchen accessories. The exhibit has emphasized Asiaco's commitment to innovate design and to produce high-quality modular kitchen cabinets and other kitchen and closet accessories that can compete not only locally but also internationally.

Asiaco, whose products recently were nominated for the Golden Award for Technology and Quality by the Editorial Office, a publishing house based in Madrid, Spain and also received the Asia Pacific Excellence Awards for outstanding kitchen and closet organizers, is an ISO 9001 quality certified by TUV. It has more than 100 outlets and dealers nationwide and now exports its products to Japan.

CITIBANK OPENS NEW KIOSK AT NAIA

Citibank brings banking convenience to travelers with the opening of its customer service kiosk at the Domestic Boarding Lounge of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 2. The kiosk offers travelers the chance to avail themselves of a free financial check-up while waiting for their flight and take stock of their current situation. Citibank customers who visit the booth can also check on their accounts by using any of the two computers at the site. By logging on to Citibank Online, they can make a quick inquiry on their available balances, pay bills online, and even apply for their preferred Citibank credit card. Shown are (from left) Naia OIC lawyer Oscar Paras Jr, Citibank country business manager for global consumer group Nina Aguas, and Citibank division executive for Asia Pacific Les Matheson during the kiosk opening.

WATER SYSTEMS TO MINDANAO'S POOR

Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP) chair Manuel V. Pangilinan signs a partnership agreement with DSWD Secretary Corazon Juliano-Soliman (center) and Veronica Villavicencio, lead convenor of the National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC) to set up potable water systems in poor communities in Muslim Mindanao covered by PBSP's ongoing Mindanao Peace and Development Program. This collaboration between PBSP and the NAPC to bring potable water to Mindanao's conflict areas falls under the Tubig sa Kalahi Program and is initially funded with a P3-million donation from PBSP.

Clips

Kadayawan sa Dabaw

A PHOTO contest called "Dagway Kadayawan" is open to amateur and professional photographers to spotlight this year's 19th Kadayawan sa Dabaw celebration. The contest has seven categories corresponding to the specific events considered as individual subjects of the photo competition. These events or categories are the Floral Float Parade, Indak Indak sa Kadalanan, Mindanao Indigenous Dance Festival, Bagobo Horsefight, Davao River Festival and Agongan ug Kulintangan. Contestants must first register with the Kadayawan sa Dabaw secretariat, City Tourism Office, Room 27, City Hall, Davao City. A briefing will be held on Aug. 10, 2 p.m. at the SM City Davao. All entries must be submitted to the secretariat on or before Aug. 27. Only entries of registered participants will be accepted. Winning and non-winning entries will be exhibited at the SM City Davao from Sept. 1 to 15.

Honoring St. Philomena

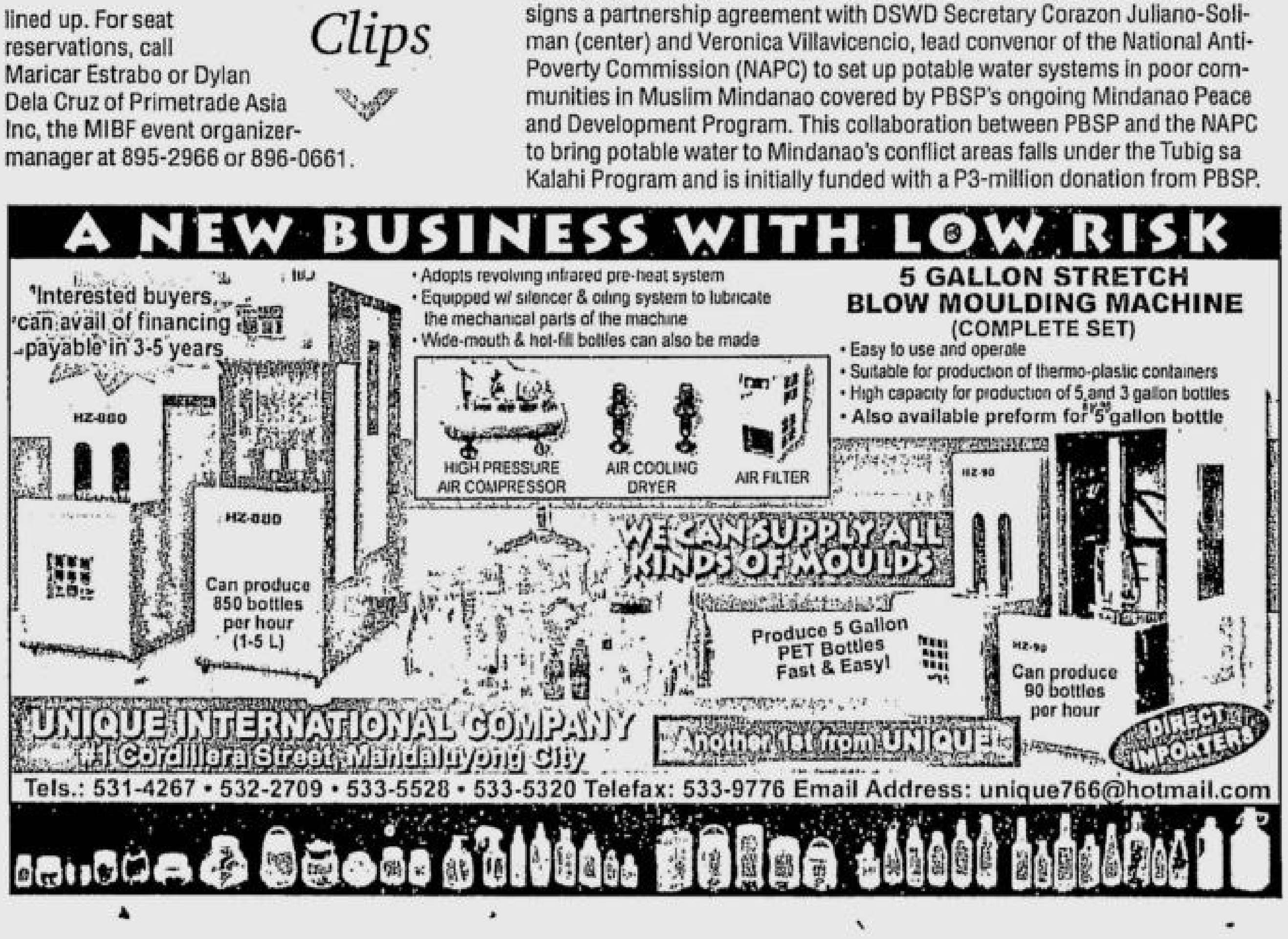
THE MOST Rev. Honesto Ongtioco DD, Bishop of the newly elected Diocese of Cubao, was the celebrant of a Pontifical Mass held Aug. 8 in honor of Saint Philomena at the Santuario de Santa Philomena, the only one in the Philippines, at the Most Holy Redeemer Parish, Malac-Inaman Streets, Masambong, San Francisco del Monte, Quezon City. The parish, headed by Rev. Fr. Jojo Zerrudo and Dina Reyes of the National Center of the Living Rosary, are joining efforts to spread devotion to St. Philomena. The parish can be reached at 365-1011 or 412-3560. The Center can be texted at 0918-5470605. The ongoing masses, which started Aug. 2, will end on Tuesday, Aug. 10. On the feast day on Aug. 11, masses will be at 6 a.m., 9 a.m., 12 noon and 6:30 p.m. The relic of St. Philomena is venerated daily during the novena masses until her feast day.

AMACC seminar

THE MASS Communications Department of the AMA Computer College in Makati will conduct a seminar about "Broadcast in Journalism" on Aug. 10, 1 p.m. onwards at the auditorium of AMA Makati.

'Art is Kool' visits MIBF

THE COUNTRY'S premiere international book event proudly welcomes one of its special guests on its 25th anniversary. "Art is Kool", the number one art program on TV, graces the 25th Manila International Book Fair slated to run from Aug. 11 to 15 at the World Trade Center-Manila, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City. A 2-hour workshop on Aug. 15, Sunday at Conference Room A of WTC shall be spearheaded by none other than Jomike Tejido or Kuya Jomike, the host of the weekly show aired on ABC 5 and produced by Probe Productions Inc. Children ages 3 to 13 are invited to come and participate in the different activities lined up. For seat reservations, call Maricar Estrabo or Dylan Dela Cruz of Primetrade Asia Inc, the MIBF event organizer-manager at 895-2966 or 896-0661.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Upscale property developer eyes yuppies for QC project

By Charles E. Buban

SEEING signs of the high-end sector's steady recovery from the doldrums of the late '90s (i.e. the height of the financial crisis), One Asia Development Corp. is now looking at a particular group belonging to this sector as core market for its one-billion-peso townhouse and walk-up condominium project in Diliman, Quezon City.

The upscale property developer believes young, urban professionals have now the means and resolve to invest on a property that is attuned to their taste and preference.

"They are highly successful in their chosen field or profession and with their hard-earned wealth, they only expect the best value for their money to which The Celebrity Place offers," company president Vic Manarang revealed.

He said this group of buyers is one of the few who has slowly but surely been absorbing whatever excess supply of high-rise projects and high-end condominium units that were left from 1996 onward and new projects that are now being started by developers like One Asia.

Strategically located in QC

"The Celebrity Place is strategically located in Quezon City where it has access to two major highways—Don Mariano Marcos and Katipunan avenues (via Tandang Sora Avenue)—that lead to key destinations in Metro Manila," he said.

Manarang added that this accessibility would give the young, urban professionals unparalleled convenience to whatever they are engaged in.

"At the same time, if they also want to be near a place where they can revitalize their energy or free their mind of work-related worries, The Celebrity Place would definitely rank high on their list," he assured.

State-of-the-art center

This is because The Celebrity Place is located right beside the country's state-of-the-art sports and fitness center, the Celebrity Sports Club that offers an Olympic-size swimming pool, four indoor tennis courts, a 16-lane bowling center, three indoor badminton courts, an indoor basketball court, a golf clinic, a spa and health center, a beauty salon, an aerobics and dance hall, a professional-level gym, two restaurants, a bar, an Internet café and a grand ballroom not to mention facilities for children such as the kiddie pool and splash pool or water slides.

"Not everybody could just come here as this is a members-only establishment. But for those who will get a unit at The Celebrity Place, they automatically enjoy the privilege of being a club member assignee to this very exclusive establishment," Manarang informed.

AS RESIDENT of The Celebrity Place (with completed units shown in background), one can enjoy the benefit of being a club member assignee and get access to the Celebrity Spots Club's various amenities including an Olympic-size pool.

Initial offering

Initially, The Celebrity Place will open its P500 million development project composed of 28 townhouses and 71 condominium units situated within a two-hectare portion of the property's total area of almost 20 hectares.

This Mediterranean-inspired community designed by renowned architect Rolando Mercado (of Rolando Mercado Design Associates) combines country-style living with upscale sports and leisure facilities.

The Celebrity Place condominium units come in different sizes: a studio with a floor area of 31 or 32 sq m (average price of P1.9 million), a one-bedroom unit with a floor area of 46 sq m (average price of P3.1 million, a two-bedroom unit with a floor area of 60 and 67 sq m (average price of P3.4 million), and a three-bedroom unit with a floor area of 104 sq m and a garden area of 21.40 sq m (average price of P6.5 million).

Moreover, a condo owner gets at least one parking slot, which is already included in the unit selling price.

"The idea is for the yuppies to choose which unit size would best fit their individual preferences," explained Manarang.

Discount to cash buyers

He added that a 10 percent discount to spot cash buyers and an 8 percent discount to spot buyers paying 30 percent down payment are currently being offered.

The typical payment term is 10 percent down payment on the spot, 20 percent payable in six, 12, or 24 months with 70 percent balance payable through bank financing.

One Asia has partnered with reputable financing institutions to assist buyers in availing of bank financing.

"Buying a condo unit at The Celebrity Place is a good investment. Apart from its prime location, one is entitled to the benefits of being a club membership assignee at a cost lower than P2 million," Manarang revealed.

For those who still wants more, The Celebrity Place also offers townhouses with floor areas of 149 sq m (average price of P7.6 million), 179 sq m. (average price of P9.5 million), 211 sq m (average price of P12.0 million).

A PREVIEW OF 'LA DOLCE VITA'

Brittany Corp. recently inaugurated at Portofino Heights the Roman bath-inspired swimming pool with lap and kiddie sections exclusively for residents. The pools offer a preview of the opulent lifestyle that residents will enjoy. Portofino Heights also offers amenities such as a grand clubhouse, fountains, basketball and tennis courts, a river park, barbecue pit, courtyards, nature jogging trails, a colonnade and a pool terrace.

Space for plants even in small condos

By Tessa R. Salazar

SPACE is no problem. As long as you have sunlight—direct or ambient—you can take care of plants.

The US National Aeronautics and Space Administration (Nasa) has itself studied many types of plants in an environment where space is truly a constraint—inside modules of its space ships. Nasa scientists have identified many plant types they have observed to have survived and cleaned the air inside the space modules.

A part of your home

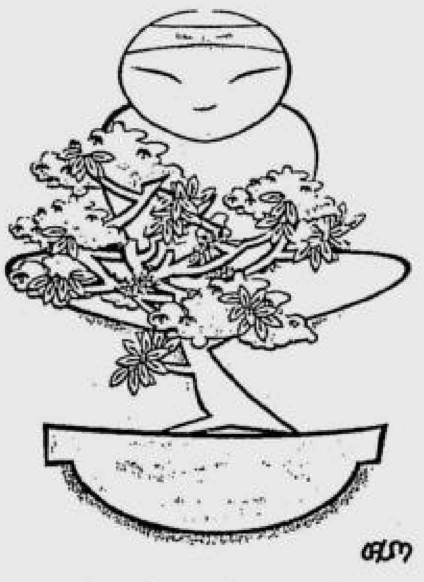
If even a tin can such as a space module can harbor plants, why not your own space? asked Jerusalino V. Araos, sculptor, teacher and Bansoy advocate, advising condo unit owners to make plants a part of your home.

Araos stressed that having plants—whether indoors or outdoors—is to be connected with nature, especially so since condo living has become so "detached" from nature.

There are no cut and dry rules in integrating flora into human dwelling places, but it all depends on how the house dwellers would feel inside. The more people living in the house, the more plants there should be.

"Plants generate a sense of well-being. A sense of well-being is also being well," said Araos.

About 15 km away from Araos' garden home in UP Diliman, Quezon City, bonsai aficionado Porty Vencer tends a collection of up to 600 bonsai materials neatly packed in a 150-sq-m garden at 76 Calypso Greens, Acropolis in front of Eastwood.



Taking care of bonsais

Said Vencer: "You could put four to six bonsais in a corner. It would be much better if you have a veranda because you would then have a place to expose your bonsai to sunlight. Bonsais need to be exposed to sunlight for 10 days in a month. If you take care of them well, they would even bear fruit with that size."

In fact, he said, his pomegranate bonsai is bearing fruit.

Vencer added that bonsais could live up to 100 years. The older the bonsai, the more valuable they become. Also, the bigger it is, the higher its price tag. Regular-priced small bonsais go for P800, P1,500, P2,000 or P3,500. Bigger bonsais cost up to P20,000. A big, old bonsai can fetch as much as P120,000.

Giving life to your house

"Bonsais and live plants, for that matter, give life to your house or condo because they produce oxygen. It lengthens your life. But you also have to take care of your bonsai. If you don't have time, you may have to retain the services of your supplier to visit you every now and then to take care of the bonsai for you," Vencer said.

He cited his favorite bonsai variants Kamuning, sherissa, mulawin, yellow dog, Banyan tree *(Ficus Bengali)* and Red Balete.

Said Vencer: "Bonsais are normally placed on higher pedestals—waistline level or higher. It would be more attractive and be more appreciated at these levels. Small bonsais can be put in corners, big ones look good on tables."

He said, however, that many interior decorators and architects aren't that familiar with bonsais. Thus, the bonsai's place in the home ultimately depends on the owner.

Give-and take affair

He has 30 years of experience cultivating bonsais. In that span of time, this unassuming man with the green thumb has learned that taking care of bonsais, or any plant for that matter, is always a give-and-take affair.

Said Vencer: "Though they provide a better quality of life for us, bonsais also require from us time and devotion. They also get sick, they also have sex, and they can also die from drowning (overwatering) or dehydration (underwatering)."

Repair, restore tiles as easy as 1, 2, 3

PUT an end to the perennial problems of cracked, loose or faded wall or floor tiles. Give your budget a rest and let your floor or kitchen tiles have a durable, beautiful and colorful finish with superior-quality Nevada Tile Adhesive and Nevada Tile Grout.

Both products work in tandem and are proven to deliver superior performance. The result of Amon Marketing's research, both products were developed and have undergone rigid testing to ensure they will be able to literally "stand the test of time."

Nevada Tile Adhesive is a prepacked mortar used to bond tiles on floor or wall surfaces. It provides better coverage and superior adhesion—up to a 12-square-meter area per 25-kilogram bag only so it's more economical. Resistant to moisture, fungi, solvent and oil, it effectively prevents tiles from cracking.

Nevada Tile Grout is specially blended from nontoxic, selected high-quality performance cement fillers, pigment and additives. It is also mold and mildew resistant. When water is added to the powder, it becomes a creamy paste. After the paste sets, the tile grout becomes hard. The attractive colors to choose from are pink, red, gray, sky blue, white, green, brown and black.

Both products are exclusively distributed by Amon Marketing.

What you need to do when termites trouble your home

BIG companies set aside funds for miscellaneous expenses that include structural repairs and maintenance. But a middle-class homeowner who spends practically his life savings building a dream home will surely feel the pain of paying a significant amount for termite control alone.

In 1998, husband and wife Mike and Pinky Inalisan and their two kids moved to a very charming middle-class subdivision in Laguna. A year later, when they decided to extend their house, the Inalisans discovered that termites had nested in their home. They did what most Filipino homeowners would have done—they paid a termite control company to drill and bore through the house and spray chemicals around the property.

The treatment didn't cost them a lot of money and they slept worry-free thinking they had licked the problem—until the second phase of renovation began. The guy doing the paint job contacted Mike in the office to say there was "no ceiling to paint"; what was left was a mere shell of the ceiling—termites have gnawed through the wood completely.

Termite trouble in office

Mike and Pinky work in the same office, a company that manufactures styrofoam and trades carton boxes. Around the time the Inalisans were having their house renovated, their company was also experiencing termite trouble. The office was looking for a termite extinguisher to protect its three-hectare plant.

Entom Pest Control & General Services Corp., an authorized operator of Sentricon Termite Colony Elimination System and owned by Elmer Baradas, made a presentation to Mike's company about the biology and lifestyle of termites and how Sentricon takes advantage of natural termite behavior to get termites where they live. Developed by Dow AgroSciences, Sentricon Termite Colony Elimination System is the technology that protects the White House, the Statue of Liberty, other famous landmarks, and many homes and property in various continents.

Entom's presentation was impressive and made good sense but when the finance people learned about the cost, the proposal was thumbed down.

Narrates Mike, the company's finance supervisor: "When we asked how much it would cost us to install Sentricon, we were knocked out. I knew the company wouldn't agree to spend so much just to get rid of termites since other exterminators would do the job for only a very minimal fee."

Cost-effective solution

But the finance guy did a good sleuthing job: Mike recovered all company documents that contained computations for repair and maintenance over the past 10 years and discovered that recurring renovations had cost the company a whooping P1.5 million for labor alone. Add to this the material cost of construction; the company was, in fact, already spending an incredible amount due to termite infestation.

Mike explained the cost-effectiveness of using Sentricon to the top executives and was given the green light. Entom went to work on the property and after a few months, the termite colonies were eliminated. Contractors are asking why they haven't been called in to make repairs in the Canlubang plant. After Sentricon, there really was nothing to repair.

FROM LEFT are Mike Inalisan and his wife Pinky with Entom marketing manager Cynthia Alma Melendres and president Elmer Baradas.

The success story prompted Mike to use Sentricon for his home. "I wanted to be smart about it so I contacted Entom to install Sentricon in our property to prevent further damage."

According to Elmer, the area where the Inalisans reside was once a sugarcane plantation. Even as the place was cleared and homes were built, termites continue to forage in the area.

Deferred payment option

Mike the finance specialist knew his family was paying good money to protect their home against termites. But what about other middle-class homeowners who care about their homes but may not have enough budget to pay the initial cost of installing Sentricon?

To address this problem, Entom now offers credit card payment through Bank of the Philippine Islands and MasterCard so even budget-conscious households can afford to give their homes the best protection possible through installments of 3, 6, 9, 12 months or up to two years. For as little as P1,000 per month, families can have their homes installed with the revolutionary Sentricon System.

Protecting investment

Mike now talks about Sentricon System with the zeal of a convert: "We're very glad about our Sentricon discovery. I say discovery because I learned so many things about termites, how infestations happen and how termite colonies can be effectively eliminated. Now when my friends complain about termites, I tell them to call Entom and get Sentricon."

He tells them that Sentricon may seem costly at the start but you actually save money in the long run. "You'll have nothing to worry about in the succeeding years; that's how well the system works," he enthuses.

His wife Pinky agrees, "We may not live in a sprawling mansion but we know we don't have termites in our home!" For inquiries, please call Entom at 850-0276, 809-1685 or 842-4724 and Dow AgroSciences at 819-1986 or 840-3874. You can also check their website: www.sentricon.com.

Real Estate Investment 101

By Alexis A. Acacio, Ph.D.

BUILDING DREAMS

REAL estate has become an investment tool for profit. Instead of putting money in the bank or maybe even starting a business, many individuals and families invest in real estate. Many have made their fortune in real estate. There are families who bought real estate many years ago at a few hundred pesos per square meter and the value has skyrocketed a thousand fold.

Most of us are enticed into investing in real estate hoping to make a fortune. But only a few people know there are also pitfalls of investing in real estate. In other words, one can also lose money in real estate investments.

After buying the first home, it is but natural that we buy real estate as an investment for profit. We hope that in the future, it will appreciate in value. Most of us win but some of us lose.

Risks and myths

Real estate investing has associated risks and myths that include:

- **Risking the Family Home**—It is perfectly normal to mortgage the home when we first have it. But after we fully pay it, sometimes we offer it as a collateral to buy another property. The important thing to remember is that we have to repay the debt anyway so that we must make sure that we have an adequate source of funds to handle it. When buying an investment property, it is best to only use the same property as a collateral and not risk including your personal home.
- **Expecting Immediate Returns**—Only in a very hot property market that we can double our investment within a year or two. But this may not happen during hard economic times. Yes, real estate appreciates in value but it would take several years before a gain is realized.
- **You Can Never Lose in Real Estate**—If you buy an investment that has legal problems, then you will be in trouble. Even a high value property that gets infiltrated by illegal occupants could make an investor lose money.
- **If You Cannot Sell, then Rent It out**—Buying and selling real estate is different from leasing. Renting out your property has its own set of problems.

Avoiding the pitfalls

There are a few basic rules in avoiding the pitfalls of real estate investing. These include:

- **Know What You Are Buying**—Now you have your own home and you would like to invest in real estate. Remember that you have many choices and these choices would mainly depend on what type of investment would be useful for you or financially beneficial for you in the long term.

It is not wise to buy a property because it is cheap since it has a specific reason for being so. Most of the time, it is better to buy a high value property.

- **Know Where to Buy**—Knowing where to buy means you should know the location where you would want to invest. It is always good to invest in an area near your home since it may be convenient for you to check on the property from time to time. Try to assess your future needs. If you have a growing business now, maybe it may be wise to invest in a commercial property where you would eventually put up your office or workshop someday.
- **Know How to Buy**—There are many things to check out before you buy a property. If you cannot handle buying yourself and you have many doubts and questions, then it may be wise for you to ask for professional help.
- **Know When to Buy**—There is such a thing as timing in buying. Prior to looking at a property, do your homework by listing down what you would need in the future.
- **When in Doubt, Ask**—Buying real estate is a complicated task. For legal matters, ask your legal counsel. For technical matters, ask your engineer. For valuation matters ask your appraiser. You need a team of professionals to be successful in real estate investing.

Final Note. Investing in real estate takes knowledge, patience and, most of all, your personal time. Appreciation and great gains occur over a long period of time. It is best that you plan your finances carefully for many investors have been in financial ruin mainly because of poor planning and irresponsible borrowing.

E-mail the author at aaacacio@pacific.net.ph.

> Most of us are enticed into investing in real estate hoping to make a fortune. But only a few people know there are also pitfalls of investing in real estate

FAÇADE of the new Ortigas Home Depot

Ortigas Home Depot now open

THE NEW Ortigas Home Depot located at No. 1 Dona Julia Vargas Ave. corner Meralco Ave., Barangay Ugong, Pasig City is finally open.

Built on a sprawling 25,000-square-meter lot, the Ortigas Home Depot is a twin-level, fully enclosed and well-ventilated edifice that is the perfect place to shop for all your houseware needs.

The Ortigas Home Depot has the largest furniture area with over 6,000 square meters of retail floor space plus a "pet hypermart" with a complete line of animal and plant care products plus a professional pet care service center.

Second home depot project

The Ortigas Home Depot is owned and operated by CW Marketing and Development Corporation, a joint venture between Cebu Oversea Hardware Co. Inc. and West Point Industrial Sales Co. Inc.

With over 50 years experience in hardware and construction requirements, this is the second home depot project of Cebu Oversea Hardware Co. in Metro Manila after establishing the Cebu Home Builders Depot in Cebu City. The company is also behind the successful launch of Living 'n Style Comple Home Finishing Center located on Chino Roces Avenue in Makati.

Impressive record

West Point Industrial Sales Co. Inc. has a 10-year impressive record in import and wholesale of industrial and construction materials with superior, high quality product lines.

Adjacent to the Ortigas Home Depot which is under the final stages of construction is the soon to open Ortigas Auto Depot, a tiangge/bazaar mall, supermarket, restaurants and bars, auto retail strip center and a golf driving range.

A guarded parking area for over 800 automotive vehicles is also available to clients.

The Ortigas Home Depot is open daily from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

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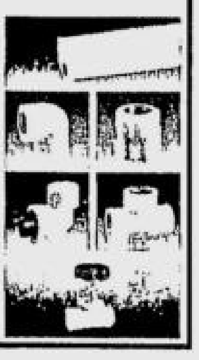

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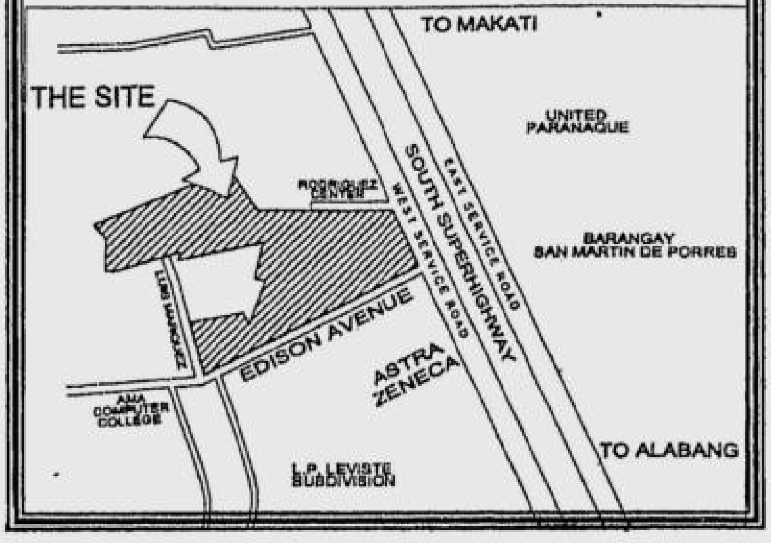

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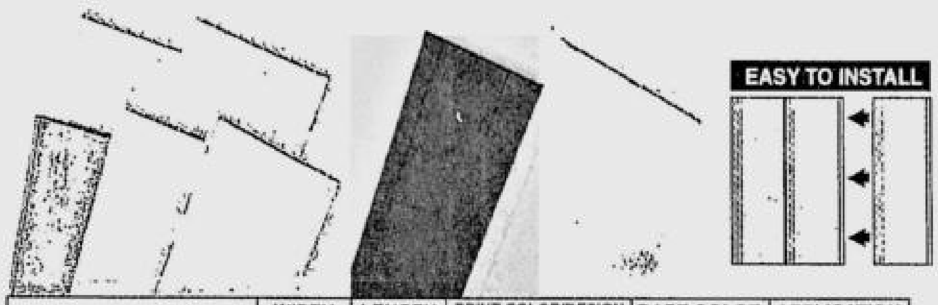

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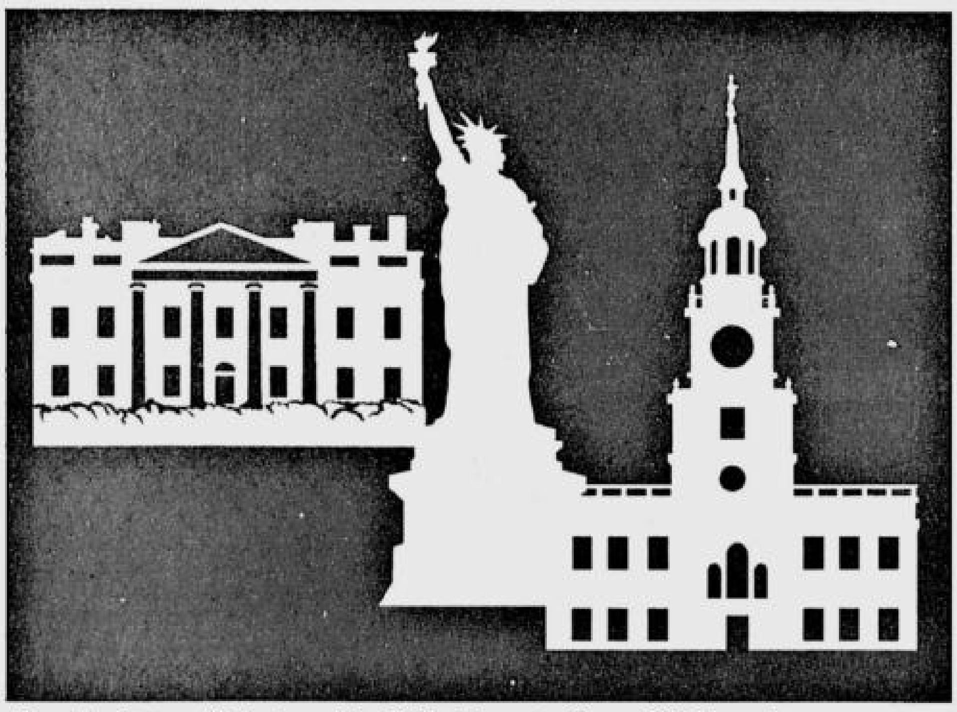

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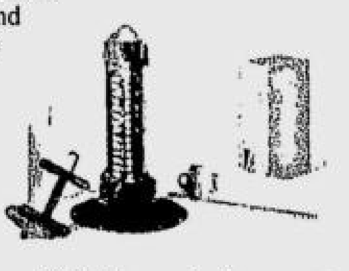

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NTC orders cell phone retailers, shops to register

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE NATIONAL Telecommunications Commission has ordered all cellular phone dealers and repair shops to register with the NTC within September and be subjected to unannounced on-spot checks.

NTC Chair Ronald Solis said the agency issued on Aug. 6 two new circulars that would take effect 15 days after their publication in major national dailies.

The circulars required all covered establishments to register with the NTC within a 30-day period after publication.

If enforced strictly, the two new NTC policies could kill the burgeoning market for stolen mobile phones and put cellular phone thieves out of business.

The NTC, however, failed to put more teeth into the new regulation when it was forced to reconsider an earlier plan to require cellular phone repair shops to secure an accreditation from the phone manufacturers like Nokia, Sony Ericsson, Motorola, or any other brand they intend to service, before they could operate.

The Commission wanted to require phone manufacturers to submit a list of their accredited service centers. But the NTC decided to remove the accreditation requirement from the circular because it would only complicate its implementation.

Solis said the registration of cellular and repair shops together with the subsequent fines for failure to do so would also improve NTC's earnings from P1.8 billion in 2003. The NTC is targeting to collect P1.4 billion from fees and charges this year.

There are between 10,000 and 15,000 mobile phone dealers and another 5,000 and 10,000 cellular phone repair shops in the National Capital Region alone, based on NTC estimates.

Requiring a prior registration with the NTC, according to Solis, would help the government crack down on illegal acts like unblocking of stolen cellular phones as well as prevent fraudulent activities using mobile phones like the text scams.

He said the Commission would seek assistance from the police to implement the spot checks on the phone dealers and repair shops.

A penalty of P5,000 had been set for each violation committed by a dealer or repair shop. Among these violations are the sale or trading of stolen phones and parts, unblocking of cellular phones, and operating without an NTC permit.

The Commission said it would suspend, cancel or revoke the permit of companies that would violate the circular.

The NTC would collect from each shop a filing fee of P180, a permit fee of P1,200 and an inspection fee of P720. The NTC permit is valid for a year and must be renewed annually.

Dealers would be asked to register with the NTC their inventory of mobile phones and SIM cards. They must also submit a monthly sales and stock report.

The NTC added that dealers must not engage in the trading of stolen or smuggled phones and SIM cards while repair shops must not unblock stolen phones and blocked SIM cards.

"The altering of IMEI number is strictly prohibited and is illegal," Solis added.

The IMEI number serves as the serial number of the mobile unit and this is what the NTC normally asks when blocking stolen cellular phones.

"The phone companies argued that the industry is already deregulated. But we have a problem requiring the use of some police powers. The Commission believes this is something it must do," Solis said.

There had been no data as to what part of the more than 27 million cellular phone subscribers have taken advantage of stolen phones.

"This could be a big step in preventing the widespread cellular phone theft. But we still need a stronger mandate like a law to better address the problem," Solis pointed out.

"We also want Congress to criminalize the unblocking of cellular phones to minimize cellphone theft. It could be made as an amendment to the penal code or as a special law to address the growing concerns of the public," the NTC chief added.

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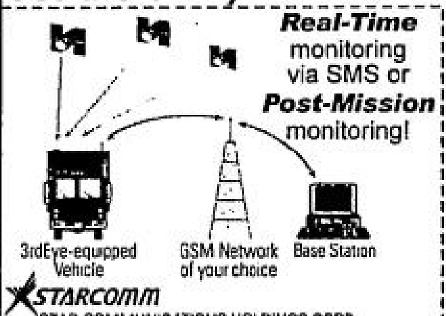

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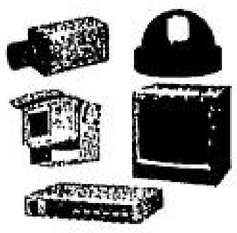

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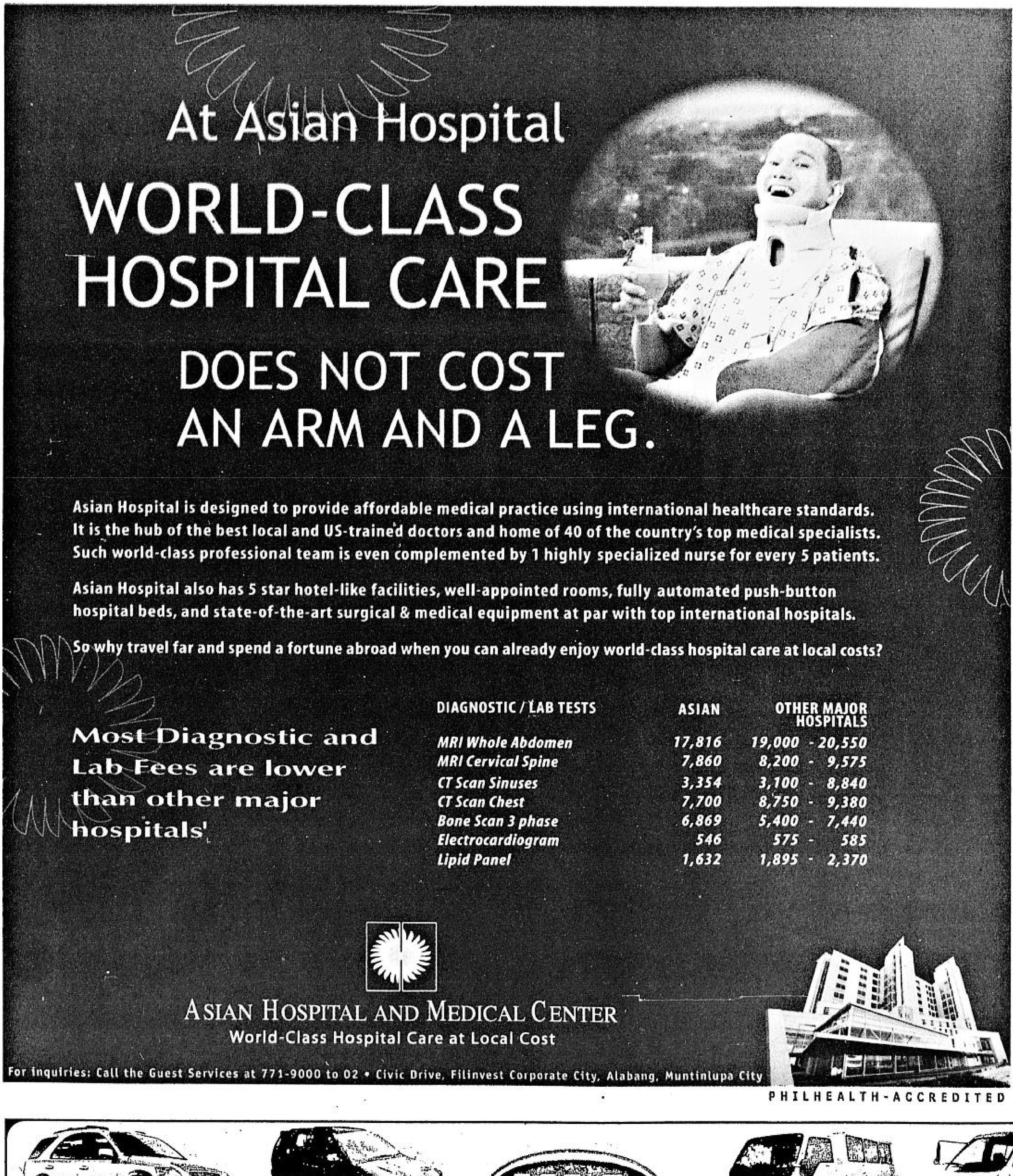

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Workout addiction

People may get addicted to physical activity because it is their only means of coping with stress and anxiety

WELL AND GOOD

Tina Juan

WHEN you hear the word addiction, you usually think of cocaine, shabu, alcohol, cigarettes or marijuana. You rarely, if ever, think of exercise.

But addiction means obsessive devotion to something. And there is nothing healthy about obsession.

According to Barbara Brehm, associate professor of Exercise and Sports Studies at Smith College in Massachusetts, the trademark of addiction is the reliance on something outside your self to cope with life and manage stress.

In the 1970s, running was considered a "positive addiction." However, in 1979, psychologist William Morgan proved that excessive running could become a "negative addiction" because of its harmful effect on physical and mental well-being. In 1989, he showed that exercise abuse was not only confined to running but involved many types of exercise.

Signs of addiction

Too much exercise does not necessarily mean a person is an addict. There is a difference between over-training and exercise addiction. Why a person is doing so much exercise spells the difference.

An aerobics instructor teaching many classes a week is in danger of being over-trained, not addicted. Competitive athletes usually accumulate a large amount of exercise time but are not considered addicts.

So, what are the signs of an exercise addict? According to Morgan, there are three symptoms common to exercise abusers: They rely excessively on exercise, they continue to exercise even when injured or ill, and they experience withdrawal symptoms when they cut back on exercise.

Excessive reliance

When people start to exercise, it is normal to increase the frequency and duration of the workouts to improve their fitness level. However, most people will eventually reach a plateau of maintenance.

Exercise addicts, on the other hand, are seldom satisfied with their routines. They continually try to increase their dose of exercise. The need for exercise becomes compulsive. Exercise becomes the number one priority. Family responsibilities, social and work obligations are neglected or ignored in favor of workouts.

According to sports psychologist Jack Raglin, one reason for an addict's compulsion is that physical activity may be his/her only means of coping with stress and anxiety. Research shows that exercise is beneficial in stress management, but it should not be the only means to combat stress. A psychologically balanced person will have other ways of coping.

In sickness or injury

Regular exercisers are usually reluctant to stop their workouts even when injured because they fear losing hard-earned gains. But most people will listen to reason and take a break from their exercise routine if they are aware of the risks. Not exercise addicts.

In his case studies, Morgan noted that workout addicts continued to exercise even when at risk of an illness or serious injury.

Withdrawal symptoms

Even casual exercisers experience some form of mild anxiety when they miss a workout or two, but exercise addicts experience withdrawal symptoms that are similar to those felt by heroin users. Commonly reported symptoms include sleep problems, changes in appetite, mood shifts and depression.

Causes

Nobody knows for sure why a person becomes an exercise addict. Researchers think it may be due to dissatisfaction with one's body, low self-esteem, eating disorders and personality disorders like obsession-compulsion. Another theory is that people become addicted to elevated levels of endorphins, hormones that are chemically similar to opiates like morphine and heroin.

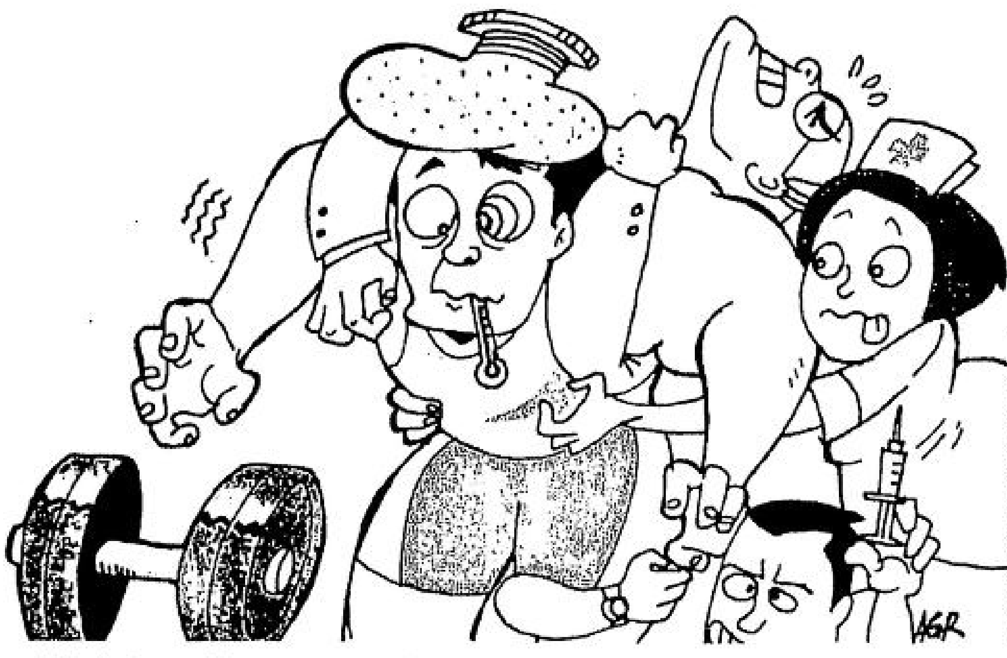

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Dangers

Just like habitual drug users, exercise addicts need increasing "dosage" more often to get satisfaction. This can lead to injury and fatigue. Even the immune system gets affected. Moderate amounts of exercise strengthen the immune system and make us less vulnerable to diseases. Too much exercise has the opposite effect.

Since addicts only know how to overdo exercise, there is a danger of the "all or nothing" attitude. They may quit exercising completely when injury or burnout occurs.

Research has found that exercise addicts are more likely to develop eating disorders like anorexia and bulimia. Anorexics avoid eating because of fear of getting fat while bulimics vomit the food they eat believing this will prevent weight gain. Both disorders stem from poor self-esteem. Excessive exercise due to addiction can also lead to amenorrhea (absence or stoppage of menstruation) and osteoporosis (brittle bones) in females.

Addiction checklist

The following questions from Fitness Management Magazine can help you tell if you are addicted to exercise or not. A single "yes" answer does not mean you are obsessed with your workout but it indicates that you may develop a problem, and possibly an addiction.

1. Does exercise provide the primary source of gratification in my life?
2. Does it provide the primary means of escape or avoidance of problems?
3. Am I developing a tolerance to exercise, needing more than I used to to achieve the desired effect?
4. Do I need it to function?
5. Is my exercise problem causing (or will it cause) the development of health problems?
6. Has my exercise routine resulted in suggestions from others to change or to stop?
7. Does my exercise routine occur as a predictable, ritualistic and compulsive activity?

What to do

If you think you are an exercise addict, consult a psychologist or psychiatrist. The goal is to overcome the addiction while keeping exercise as part of a balanced healthy lifestyle.

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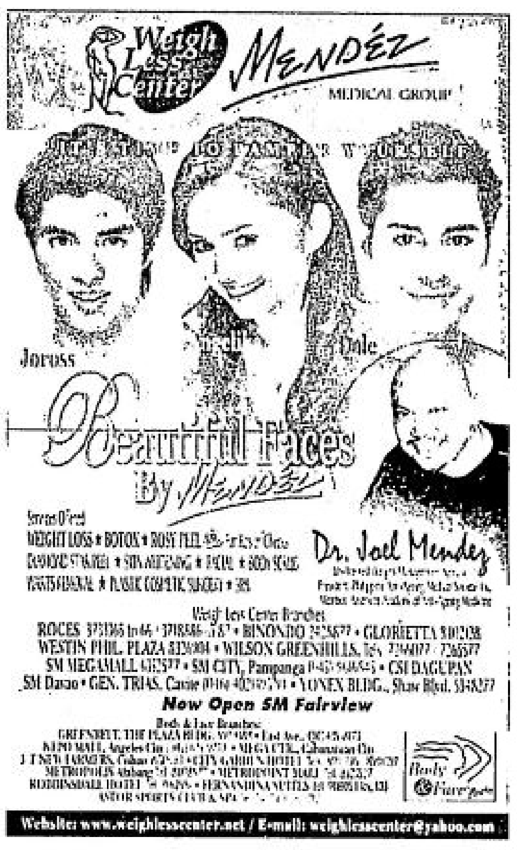

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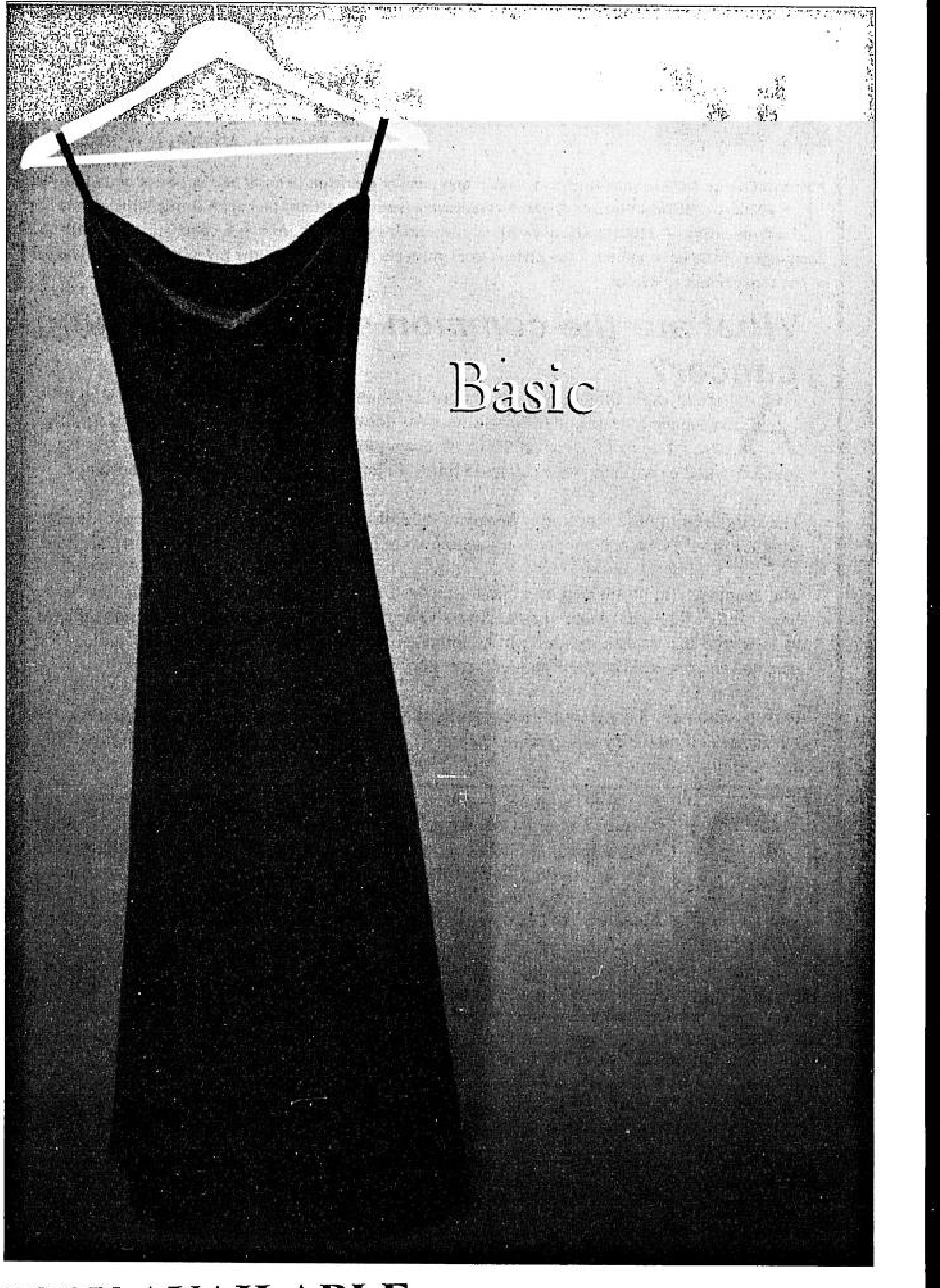

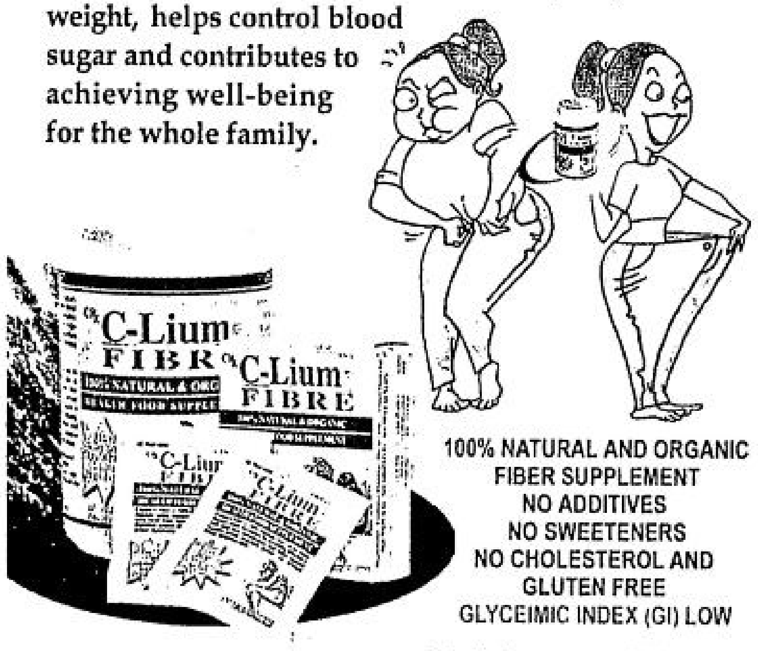

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"... Why is everyone here so happy except me? 'Because they have learned to see goodness and beauty everywhere,' said the Master.

"... Why don't I see goodness and beauty every where? 'Because you cannot see outside of you what you fail to see inside.' " —**"One Minute Wisdom" by Anthony de Mello**

INSIDE OUT

Cory Quirino

ILLUSTRATION: ANTHONY MISTADES

Think positive
think positive

Low batt:

It's the dilemma of modern times, a malady that results from stress. People are often drained of energy as a consequence of the rigors of daily living. Their energy level becomes so low that it creates an environment in the body conducive to illness.

But who wants to get sick? Are there some preventive measures you can take, a change of lifestyle perhaps, a new perspective?

Since mind and body are one with the spirit, you cannot treat the body without treating the other dimensions of the self. A choice, though, has to be made. Will it be strength or weakness?

True sight:

In order to tap unlimited energy, the thoughts running through your mind must be considered.

- Get behind your thoughts. Remember that they have energy that can either weaken or strengthen you. Eliminate negative thoughts.
- Look inside yourself. Are you a factory of nervous, rampaging thoughts and emotions or a source of calm, free-flowing positive feelings? If you fail to see the goodness that you are inside, you will not be able to project it outside of yourself. In short, you become what you think.

Inside : I am penniless.
Outside: I do not attract abundance.
Inside : I have abundance.
Outside: I attract opportunities for expansion.
Inside : I will become a happier person.
Outside: I attract the energies of happiness.

- Raise the frequencies of your state of mind and being by:

Aligning yourself with Spirit/God/Heaven/The Source through prayer, meditation and positive self talk. "We must raise ourselves to the levels of energy where we are the light we seek, where we are the happiness we desire, where we are the love we feel is missing, where we are the unlimited abundance we crave."

By being light, love, abundance and happiness, we attract them to us and into our lives. Conversely, by lamenting their absence, disharmony will continue to flow into our lives. Why? Because we keep giving what is lacking in our lives so much attention, time and energy.

Instead of thinking about what you don't have all the time, think about what you do have all the time. Bless the good things. Stop cursing the bad. Praise the blessings, and more will come your way.

- Like attracts like. If you are experiencing pain, discord, depression, scarcity, it's because you've been attracting these circumstances in your life. Low energy invites more low energy. You invite it even if, as they say, it is done on a subconscious level.
- Eat a high energy diet. Processed food, alcohol, drugs, are low energy substances. Eat fresh fruits, vegetables, nuts, soy, non-yeast breads, virgin coco/olive oil. Low energy foods are flour-based cereals, meats, dairy, sugar. Become conscious about what you ingest.
- Seek high-energy music with soothing and calm vibrations. Harsh metallic sounds with lyrics that are offensive will not raise your energy levels.
- Unclutter your environment. Clean up and put more order in your surroundings. Start with yourself. Beautify and improve.
- Limit or manage your exposure to electromagnetic rays from cellular phones, television sets, electronic equipment, microwaves. Use safeguards if it cannot be avoided.
- Be conscious of the energy levels of the people in your life. Choose to be with those who can empower you.
- Write down your affirmations. Then verbalize them. Place them in strategic places in your house/office. Be detailed in your affirmations.

Example: "I intend to attract into my life the ideal job so that I can buy a car and house. I envision my dream to be a reality by September 2004. I intend to help the poor by donating my time and money. I intend to be happier, healthier and stronger."

High-energy drink:

Ingredients: one whole orange, squeezed
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1 tsp honey
Mix in a blender and drink.

Skin softener:

Use the leftover orange halves to rub your elbows, knees, soles of feet to soften dry skin. Scrub for 30 seconds with 1 tbsp coco virgin oil and ¼ tsp salt. Rinse.

Love and light!

Reference: "The Power Of Intention" by Dr. Wayne W. Dyer

Watch "Life" by Cory Quirino, 11:30 p.m., Wednesdays, Studio 23.

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Dr. Nicky S. Montoya

Take Charge Doc! is your weekly question and answer guide on general health issues and illnesses. MEDICard's Medical Director, Dr. Nicky Montoya answers questions on health through the assistance and expertise of MEDICard's network of accredited specialists. And in a common thrust with the campaigns of the government, Take Charge Doc! parallels its features on the Calendar of Health Events of the Department of Health.

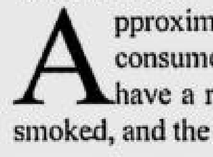
What are the common symptoms of lung cancer?

Approximately 85% of lung cancer occurs among smokers or former smokers who have consumed at least one to two packs a day for the past 15 to 20 years. Current smokers have a rate of lung cancer 10 to 15 times more than that of someone who has never smoked, and the risk increases to 20 to 25 times if more than one pack per day is consumed.

The symptoms of lung cancer may be any of the following: chronic cough, shortness of breath, weight loss, chest pain, hemoptysis (coughing up of blood), poor appetite and occasional fever.

The diagnosis can be attained by a chest x-ray or CT scan of the chest and confirmed by tissue biopsy either through the skin (percutaneously) or through a bronchoscope (an instrument used to look into the trachea and bronchi of lungs). Chances of survival are better if tumors are detected and removed early by surgical resection.

Persons who have the aforementioned risk factors – cigarette smoking or exposure to a partner who smokes (passive smoking) accompanied by these signs and symptoms should immediately see their physicians.



This week's answer was provided by our accredited Pulmonologist at Chinese General Hospital and Medical Center, **Dr. Shirley Jane D. Chua-Panganiban.** Doc Shirley is a graduate of Medicine from the University of Santo Tomas. She finished her residency training for her specialization in Internal Medicine at Chinese General Hospital and took her fellowship residency in Pulmonary Medicine at St. Luke's Medical Center. Dr. Panganiban is a Fellow to the Philippine College of Physicians and a Diplomate of the Philippine College of Chest Physicians. For your consultation needs, visit her clinic located at Room 226, every Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 1 to 4 PM.

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How dreams can solve your problems

INNER AWARENESS

Jaime T. Licauco

EVERYBODY dreams, even those who say they can't remember a single dream. For dreaming is an essential and natural activity of our sleeping mind. We spend one-third of our lives asleep so dreaming comprises a large chunk of our mental activities.

But what exactly is a dream? Why do we dream and what can we get out of our dreams?

A dream has been defined as "the language of the subconscious mind." Because it is a language, it has its own rules of grammar, punctuation, structure and rhythm. Once we learn the language of our dreams, it becomes relatively easy to understand their meaning.

Reasons

Why do we dream? There are many reasons for this. First, a dream can be a warning of a future event so we can prepare for it. This is usually the reason we dream of impending deaths of close relatives and friends. We are being prepared for the tragedy, so that its emotional impact on us is lessened. If it is about an accident, perhaps we can warn the people concerned.

Second, a dream can give us insights into our present situation. For example, our state of health, relationships or spiritual life.

Third, a dream can give us clues on who we were in a past life. When one dreams of an old civilization, or a strange country with strange language and costume s/he has never seen in this life, it may be a past life memory.

Fourth, a dream may carry important messages from dead relatives or the spirit world in general. This usually happens during birth days, death anniversaries or important events in the life of the dead (no pun intended).

Solutions

Fifth, a dream may offer solutions to a problem we may be having. Dreams can offer highly creative and unique solutions to problems. All we need to do is ask for the solution before sleeping.

Solutions to difficult problems we may be working on often appear in dreams in symbolic language that is not easy to understand without sufficient experience. Some great scientific breakthroughs were a result of dreams.

Do you know how organic chemistry came about? It was through a dream. The great Dutch chemist, Kekule, was working very hard on the molecular formula of Benzene when he fell asleep and had a dream. He dreamt that molecules were dancing before him. Then they turned into a snake biting its tail. The strange figure the snake assumed attracted his attention.

Organic chemistry's birth

When he woke up, he realized that the strange shape the snake assumed, i.e. a loop, must be indicative of the shape of the formula of Benzene. It turned out to be correct. Kekule's dream gave birth to organic chemistry.

Here's another classic example. Elias Howe got the idea for a sewing machine needle from a dream. Howe dreamed he was caught by a tribe of cannibals and they were about to eat dinner. Problem was, he was the main dish! They put him in a big cauldron and began cooking him.

While he was there, he saw the natives dancing around the cauldron, each of them holding a spear with a pointed blade that had a hole in it. He wondered about those blades with holes. Then he woke up. That's how he got the idea of putting a hole on the head of the sewing needle.

Subconscious suggestion

Dreams can also help us find solutions to problems that perplex us in our waking state. All you have to do before sleeping is to suggest to your subconscious mind to give you a dream that will contain a solution to the problem at hand. Repeat this suggestion over and over again until you fall asleep. If done consistently, you will wake up one morning with the solution.

When giving such a suggestion to your sleeping mind, you must be alert to the answer given in your waking state because it may not come in very clear terms. The dream can be symbolic, or it can lead you to a person, a place or a book that will contain the solution to your problem. You have to pay attention to hints or clues.

Sixth, often a dream may be merely a psychological wish fulfillment of a waking desire. A young woman may secretly wish to have a date with her best friend's boyfriend. In her dream she can have him all to herself.

Have a pleasant dream tonight!

E-mail jlicauco@edsamail.com

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A+mpalaya Plus
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DIABETES? GO ALL NATURAL
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To join, key in <Info Diabetes> and send to 700276. Answer an easy five multiple-choice quiz. Then register your name, address, telephone number, age and sex. You will receive a confirmation number that you can show at the Smart Wireless Center to receive the free gift pack from Natural Ampalaya Plus.

A product of Natural Quality Corporation, Ampalaya Plus is duly registered with the Bureau of Food and Drugs as an herbal dietary supplement. It combines *ampalaya*, *banaba* and *luyang dilaw* in one capsule. Visit http://www.natturaltm.com/index.html.

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MAS MATINDI!
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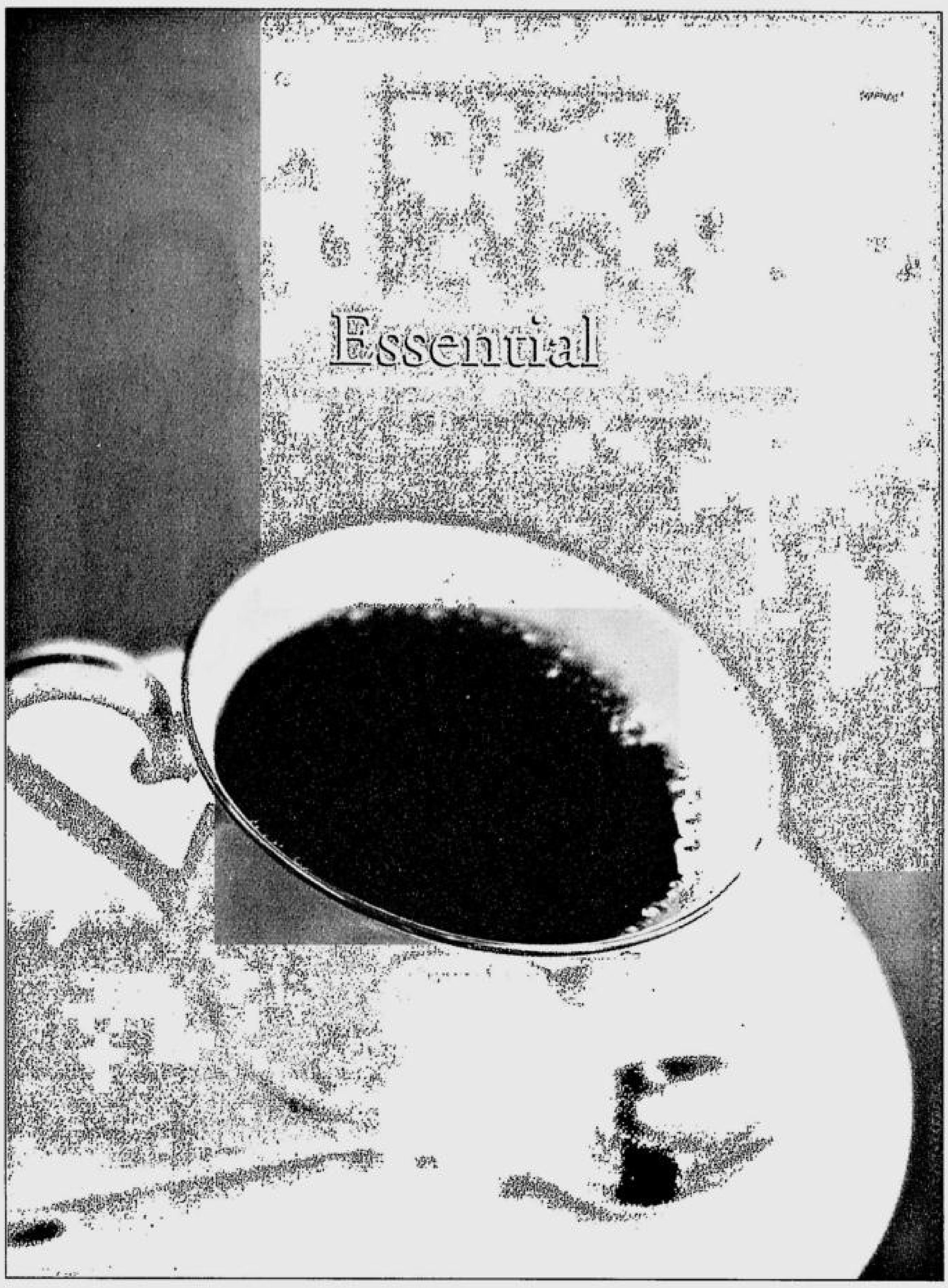
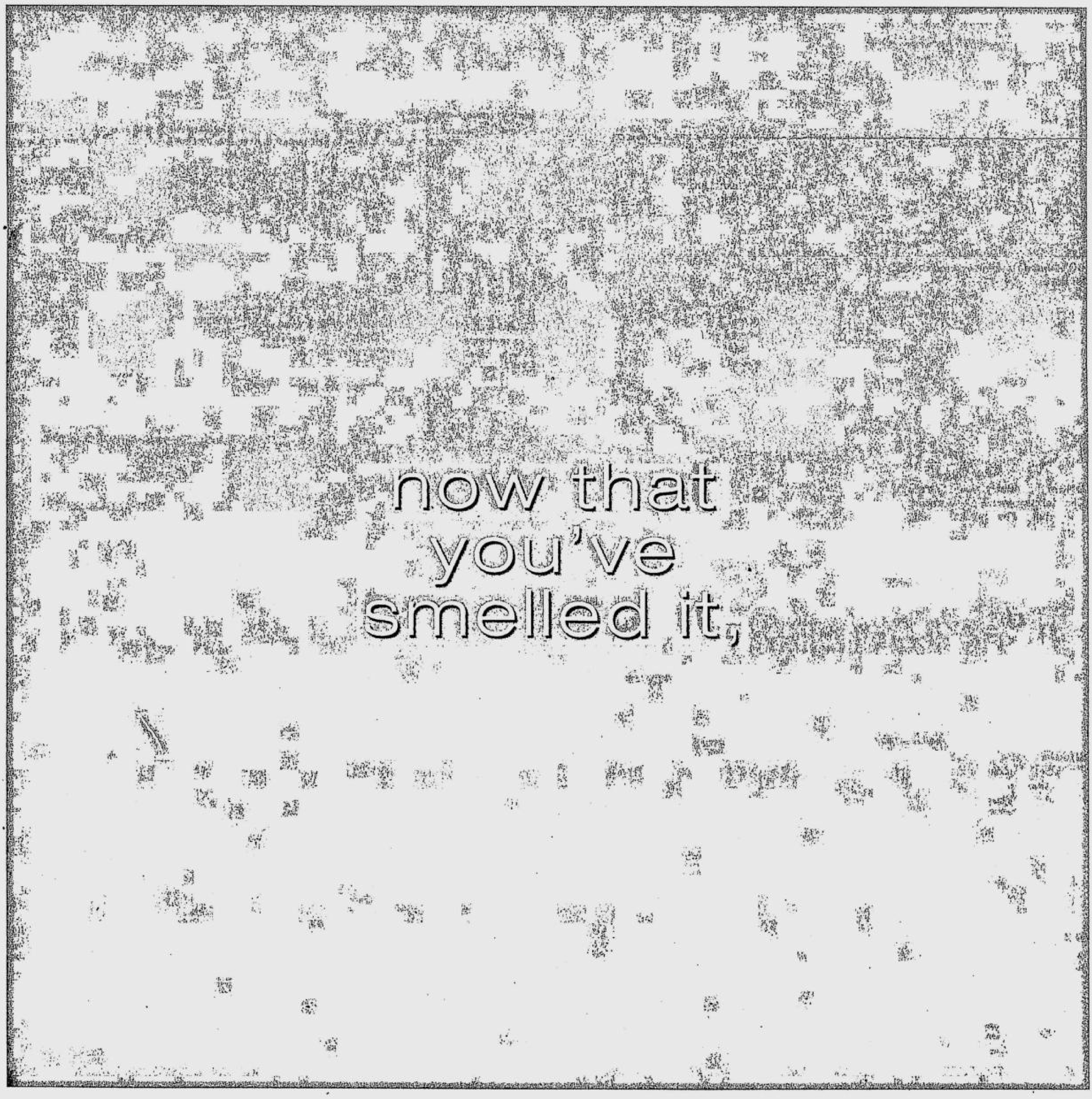
DEXTROMETHORPHAN HBr
PHENYLPROPANOLAMINE HCl
PARACETAMOL
TUSERAN FORTE
Reformulated
If symptoms persist, consult your doctor

*DXM is Dextromethorphan




now that
you've
smelled it,

PHILIPPINE Tatler managing director Irene Martel Francisco with Annabelle Rama and Liezl Martinez

DIANA Jean Lopez, Annick Charriol, Babette Aquino and Baby Arenas admire the handsome Actor watch.

THREE hotshots. Stores Specialists Inc. president Zenaida "Nedy" Tantoco, chic Annick Charriol and Peter Ling, managing director of Philippe Charriol Far East Limited

Watch-ing the beautiful people

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by **Alex Van Hagen on Kodak Max**

IT was party time for the glittering personas and hottest celebrities when Charriol launched the Actor Watch at its chi-chi jewelry shop in Greenbelt 4. The new watch paid tribute to the current hotshot personalities and heroes of the silver screen, *palanggas*.

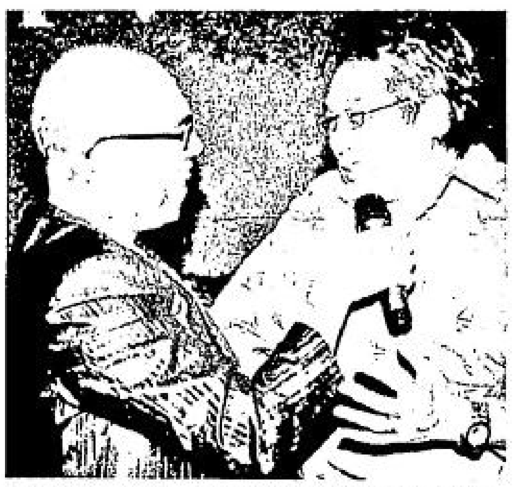
It was love at first sight for invitees who drooled over the sleek and stylish timepiece befitting all those who consider the world theirs.

The chic and stylish blonde French lady, Madame **Annick Charriol**, elegant in an all-white outfit, welcomed the stars of the affair, along with managing director for the Far East, nice **Peter Ling**; Stores Specialists Inc. (SSI) president, super dedicated civic/charity personality, mega businesswoman **Zenaida "Nedy" Tantoco**; and SSI brilliant executive vice president, workasonic young guard, **Anton Huang**.

The place was transformed into a showcase of Charriol's signature look. A delicious feast was whipped up by the Peninsula Manila. Martinis and other cocktail drinks flowed courtesy of Ralphs Wines & Spirits, natch!

The place rang with "hellos" and loads of cheek-kisses were exchanged. Everyone had a ball listening to the evening's host, the inimitable **Boy Abunda,** no less, who described the event as a "beautiful tribute to the indispensable role the local movie industry plays in society." He casually chatted with actors and others who sidled up to him, hoping he wouldn't forget them, which I'm sure he didn't!

BROADCAST journalist Ces Drilon and actress Assunta de Rossi with Stores Specialists Inc.'s top man, Anton Huang



BOY Abunda interviews director Maryo J. de los Reyes.

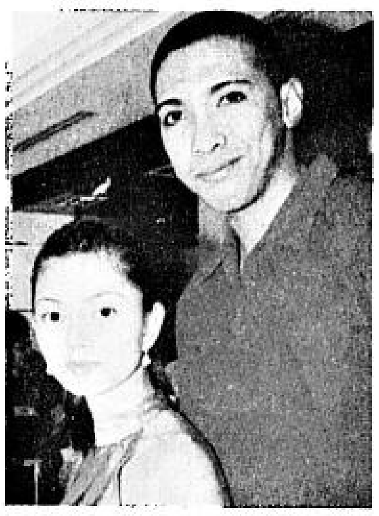
ONE of the country's icons and a loyal Charriol customer, Eddie Garcia, is congratulated by Annick Charriol.

SHU Uemura Philippines brand manager Tina Tinio with Shu Uemura's head of international development, Vincent Jeanniard

TESSA Prieto-Valdes and Shu Uemura International's Masaki Suzuki

VISIONS and Expressions' Ginggay Joven de la Merced with architect Tonichi Mendoza

BEAUTIFUL scene stealers. Nina Herrera Huang and Jessica Puyat



THE TALL and the beautiful. Maricar de Mesa and basketball star Don Allado

SHOPWISE'S gorgeous couple, Donnie and Crickette Tantoco

KARA Tolentino, Miguel Rosales and L'Oreal's secret weapon, Angelique Villaraza

BLUE Carreon of the Philippine Tatler, Jenni Epperson of INQUIRER's Just Shop, Vicky Tensuan of Mega Magazine and Romina Urra-Gonzalez of Metro Magazine

A short fashion show featuring the Actor collection showed us the sophisticated styles of this eye-catching watch. Boy A. then made the announcement we were all dying to hear. Named "the dashing man of the night" was the too-handsome-for-words **Albert Martinez,** who looked fabulous in a sleek three-button black suit. "The lady of the night" was the stunningly gorgeous **Assunta de Rossi,** radiantly divine in a gold tube outfit.

A grand special award was given by **Annick Charriol** to one of Philippine cinema's icons and a loyal Charriol customer, **Eddie Garcia.** But, who else, *palanggas*?

That evening movie stars rubbed elbows with our town's shakers, newsmakers and people who make a difference in their own fields like Philippine Tatler's prime mover, **Irene Martel Francisco**; **Baby Arenas**; **DJ Lopez**; the beautiful couple, handsome **Donnie Tantoco** and his gorgeous wife, **Crickette Yu**; **Nina Huang**; young miss with the 4 Bs **Cathy Huang**; the Manila Peninsula's unbeatable couple **David** and **Marilou Batchelor**; ABS-CBN Publishing's new guards, **Ernie Lopez** and his wife, southern belle **Jeena**; NBC's man of substance, **Francis Lumen**; and Shangri-La's prime asset, **Joy Wassmer**; **Ana Bitong**; back-in-the party scene (at least this scene) **Peter** and **Minnie Jentes**; Ayala power hotshot executive **Javi Hernandez**; and **CJ Jesena,** plus so many others too over exposed to mention, darlings.

Hey you guys, check out Charriol's Actor Watch. It ain't the "it" watch for nothing, darlings.

Though I had my eyes on the gorgeous Actor watch, I noticed this high-profile society gal's eye-catching gold watch. I asked her what it was. She told me then added "the movement of this watch is excellent."

"With the price you paid for it, it has to be," I answered. She smilingly answered, "I don't mean the (mechanical aspect) I mean the way this watch travels back and forth to the pawnshop, Maurice."

And I always thought that diamonds are a girl's best friend, *'di bala*?

Red-lipped day

Ahhh, Shu Uemura, the prestigious Japanese cosmetic brand has women in the know abuzz with excitement thanks to an endless stream of new and super exciting products. The company outdid itself again, *palanggas*, when it launched its newest star product, the Lolishine Rouge, at a superb lunch event at the excellent and consistent Lumiere Restaurant.

For a casual and intimate atmosphere, *palanggas*, the Shu Uemura rah-rah team led by its brilliant and so capable brand manager, **Tina C. Tinio**, transformed Lumiere into a Lolishine "Rouge Gallery," with all the Shu Uemura elements. We all dined at long tables brasserie-style that allowed invitees to catch up on each other over a mix of yummy French food provided by Lumiere and Japanese fare from the popular Zen Restaurant.

For this colorful happening, Shu Uemura brought in two hotshots from the International Team in Japan to bring us the latest on the brand.

Tres charmant Monsieur **Vincent Jeanniard**, head of International Development, gave a big "thanks for all the support given to Shu Uemura this year." He then introduced the star of the day—the new sheer and shiny lipstick Lolishine Rouge, which was welcomed by the women with loads of "oohs and aahs."

Making sure that everyone got the full Lolishine Rouge experience were Shu Uemura Japan's **Masaki Suzuki**; Shu Uemura Phils. chief, super talented and gifted makeup artist **Xeng Zulueta**; L'Oreal Philippines managing director **Paul Henri Duillet**; and Luxury Division general manager **Cessie Colayco.**

As I chatted with one of the gals, I asked why a certain babe wore no lipstick. I pointed her out to my bitchy pal, who answered, "Yeah she wears lipstick but she can't keep her mouth still long enough to (apply) it."

Ouch! Oh well.

Excellent food, a gift of Skin Care essentials that included Lolishine Rouge, *naturellement*, and flowing wine in the afternoon made us feel great—definitely a winning formula for Shu Uemura, darlings!

I left feeling light and giddy and bumped into the fashionably stylish **Mary Ann Cuenca Tinio**, no less, who looked every bit the fashion plate that she was in spite of dashing in late-ish and missing the whole presentation.

Shu Uemura products are available in Rustan's Makati and Shangri-La Plaza Mall. Okay gals, get those lips looking luscious.

MAN of the night Albert Martinez

L'OREAL Philippines managing director Paul-Henri Duillet with Mary Ann Tinio and Cessie Colayco

SHU Uemura's talented makeup team, Xeng Zulueta and Robbie Piñera

CROSSOVER president and CEO Louie Villar with winners in the employees division: Sandy Ocampo, AVP for marketing, and Dodie Crisostomo, senior manager for special projects

ICKHOY de Leon, Caltex country brand manager (first runner-up, sponsors division), with Saripaz Villar-Tan and Elaine Villar-Rivilla, Crossover SVPs for marketing and finance

Badminton tournament champs

WEENA Lim and Wally Fernandez were crowned champions in the 1st Crossover Cup Badminton Tournament held at Club 650 on E. Rodriguez Ave., Libis, QC.

First runners-up in the open category were Mylene and Bogs Amahit.

Other winners in the tournament were Jeanette and Salvador Banquilles (70 category), Marivic Villarin and Apolinario Lapena (80 category), Salvador Banquilles and Ming Syyap (90 category), Severino Capiral and Ester Gloria (105 category).

Teams that competed in the tournament were divided into mixed doubles open class and mixed doubles combined age categories.

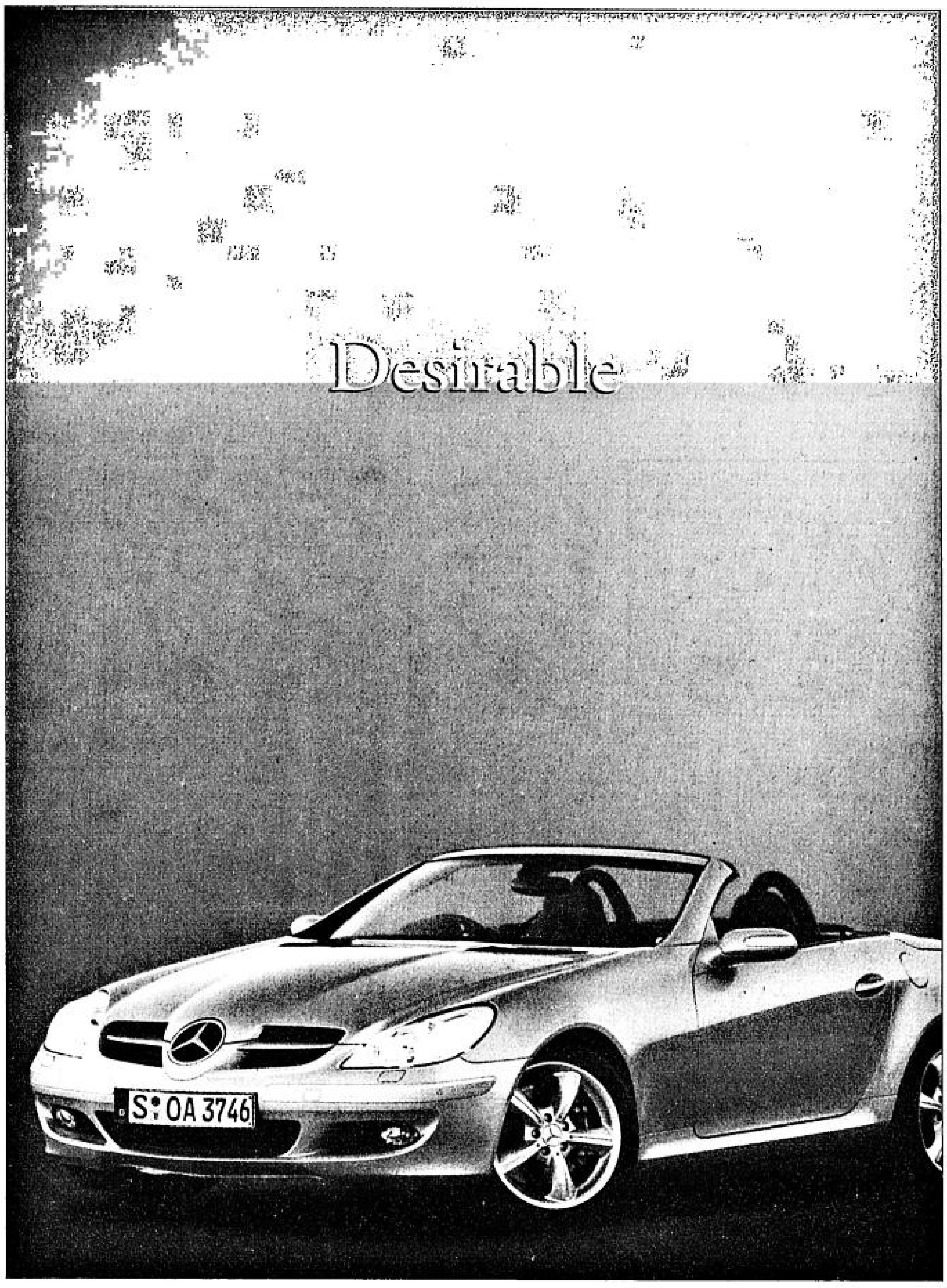
During the opening, the former Olympian Lim herself, who is Crossover's assistant vice president for corporate communications, led the ceremonial toss. She was joined by Robert Crespo, AVP for marketing; Sandy Ocampo; and Philippine Badminton Tournaments champion Amahit.

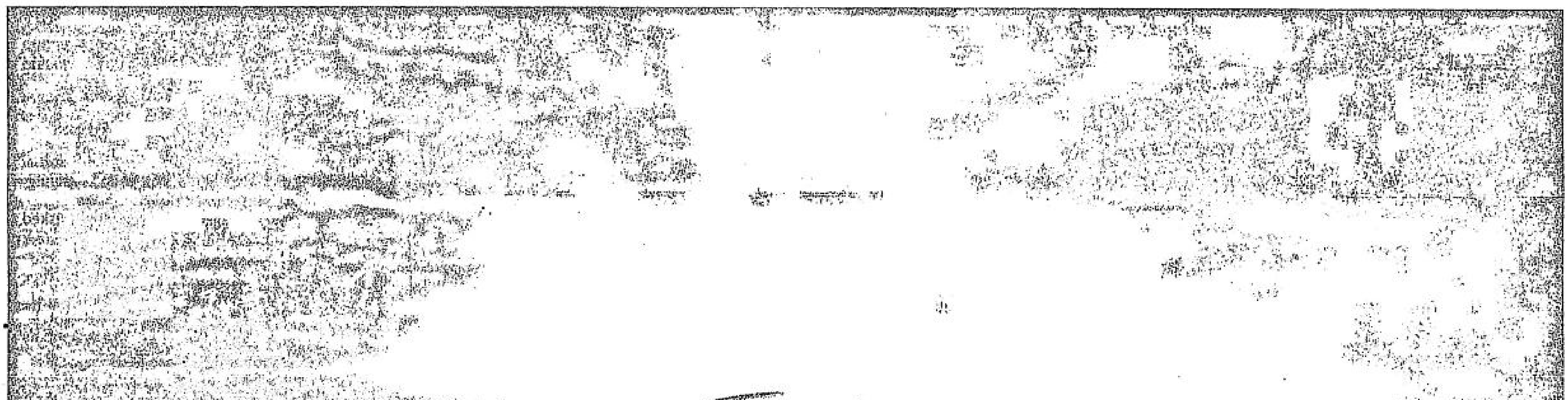
Sponsors also fielded their own teams, with Lizette Cipriano of Sun Cellular teaming up with Ron Sulit to win the championship. Ickhoy de Leon and Andy Mancera of Caltex were first runner-up. Among the Crossover employees who participated were Ocampo and Dodie Crisostomo.

A victory party was given for the winners at the Chef & Brewer Bar in Ortigas with the band Time and A Half playing dance music. Crossover president and chief executive office Louie Villar, senior vice president for marketing Saripaz Villar-Tan, SVP for finance Elaine Villar-Rivilla handed out prizes in cash and kind to the winners.

Among those who attended the event were Sun Cellular's manager for media and PR Alvin Bagasan, AVP for marketing services Evelyn Jimenez, Gold's Gym representative Cecille Salcedo, Caltex country brand manager Ickhoy de Leon, Charmaine Neri of Body & Soul and Club 650 managing director, JR Benson.

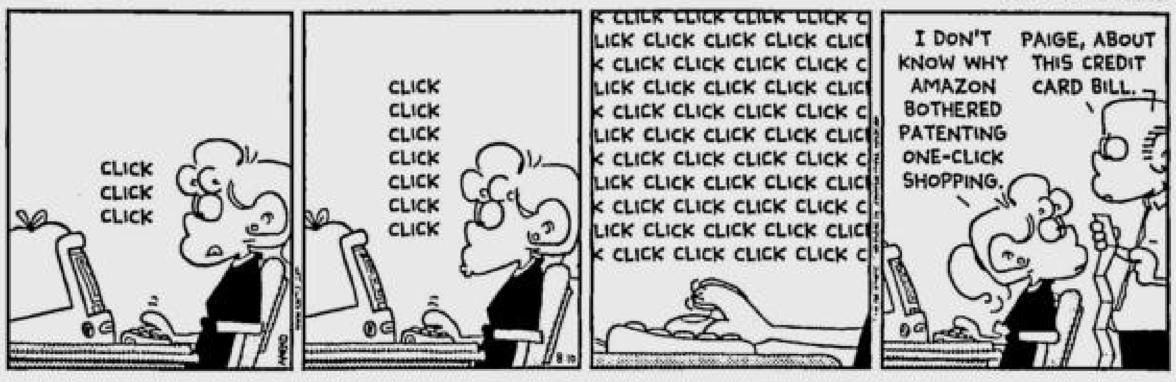
PARTICIPANTS in the open category





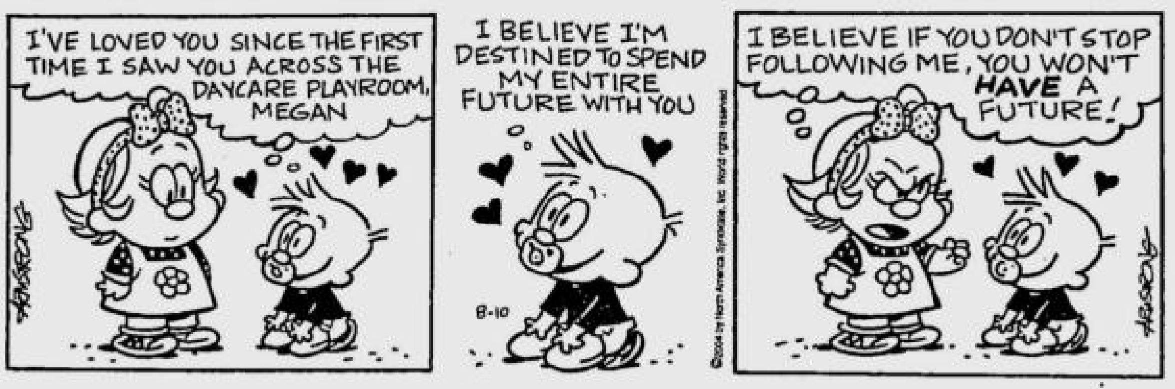
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


CLICK CLICK CLICK
CLICK CLICK CLICK CLICK CLICK CLICK CLICK
CLICK CLICK CLICK CLICK CLICK
I DON'T KNOW WHY AMAZON BOTHERED PATENTING ONE-CLICK SHOPPING.
PAIGE, ABOUT THIS CREDIT CARD BILL.

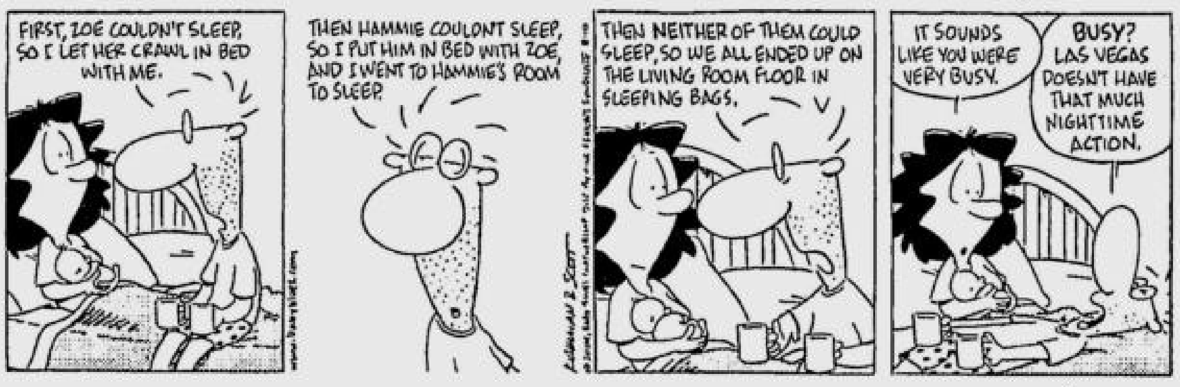
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


I'VE LOVED YOU SINCE THE FIRST TIME I SAW YOU ACROSS THE DAYCARE PLAYROOM, MEGAN
I BELIEVE I'M DESTINED TO SPEND MY ENTIRE FUTURE WITH YOU
8-10
I BELIEVE IF YOU DON'T STOP FOLLOWING ME, YOU WON'T HAVE A FUTURE!

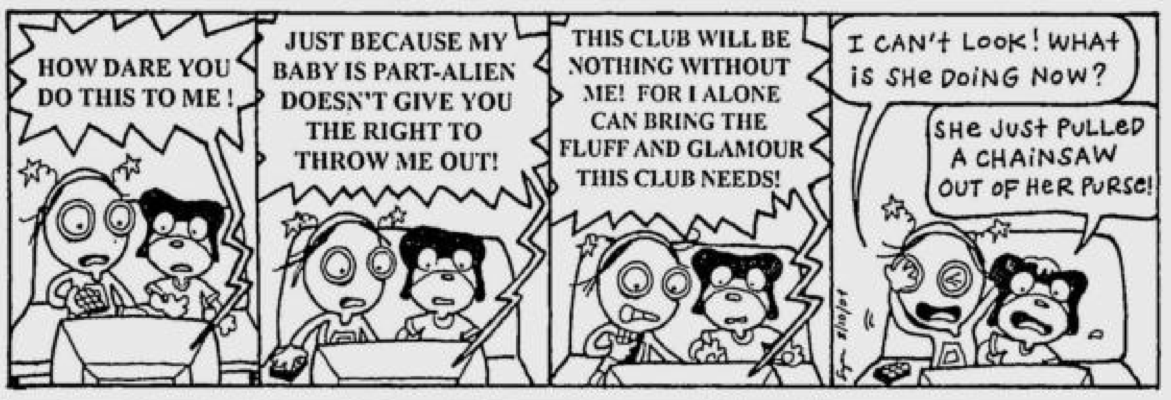
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


FIRST, ZOE COULDN'T SLEEP, SO I LET HER CRAWL IN BED WITH ME.
THEN HAMMIE COULDNT SLEEP, SO I PUT HIM IN BED WITH ZOE, AND I WENT TO HAMMIE'S ROOM TO SLEEP.
THEN NEITHER OF THEM COULD SLEEP, SO WE ALL ENDED UP ON THE LIVING ROOM FLOOR IN SLEEPING BAGS.
IT SOUNDS LIKE YOU WERE VERY BUSY.
BUSY? LAS VEGAS DOESN'T HAVE THAT MUCH NIGHTTIME ACTION.

ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


HOW DARE YOU DO THIS TO ME!
JUST BECAUSE MY BABY IS PART-ALIEN DOESN'T GIVE YOU THE RIGHT TO THROW ME OUT!
THIS CLUB WILL BE NOTHING WITHOUT ME! FOR I ALONE CAN BRING THE FLUFF AND GLAMOUR THIS CLUB NEEDS!
I CAN'T LOOK! WHAT IS SHE DOING NOW?
SHE JUST PULLED A CHAINSAW OUT OF HER PURSE!

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: People are attracted to you because you're fun and you know how to be seductive (especially with your voice). With little effort, you project yourself forcefully on the world around you. Your energy and humor bring people joy. You're a natural entertainer. The year ahead is fun-loving and social, and it definitely benefits partnerships.
Birthdate of: Angie Harmon, actress; Antonio Banderas, actor; Rosanna Arquette. actress.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): You're prepared to work very hard now. The only catch is that you want credit for what you do. Because of this, you're best served by working alone.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Play comes before work today. You're not into self-denial and discipline. You want to have fun! (And you feel much more competitive than usual.) Enjoy your day.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): You can expect increased activity where you live. This might be due to renovations or redecorating, or visiting guests. Domestic strife is also a possibility. Have patience!

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Get ready for lots of vigorous mental work. Your mind is very sharp now. You can get a lot done today and in the next few weeks.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): You seem to identify with what you own now. Don't get into disputes about the value of some of your possessions. After all, you're much more than your bank account.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): This is a time of great activity in your life. You're working very hard to make a name for yourself. You're definitely more of a fighter for your own rights than usual.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): If you don't get credit for what you do now, you'll be frustrated and disappointed. Watch for little self-defeating acts, and try to work alone as much as possible.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): You feel competitive with a friend now. Group activities appeal to you, but you want to do well or make a good showing for yourself. (All you can do is give it your best shot.)

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Your ambition to achieve is definitely aroused now. You want more independence and personal authority. Conflict with bosses and parents is possible as well. Be patient.

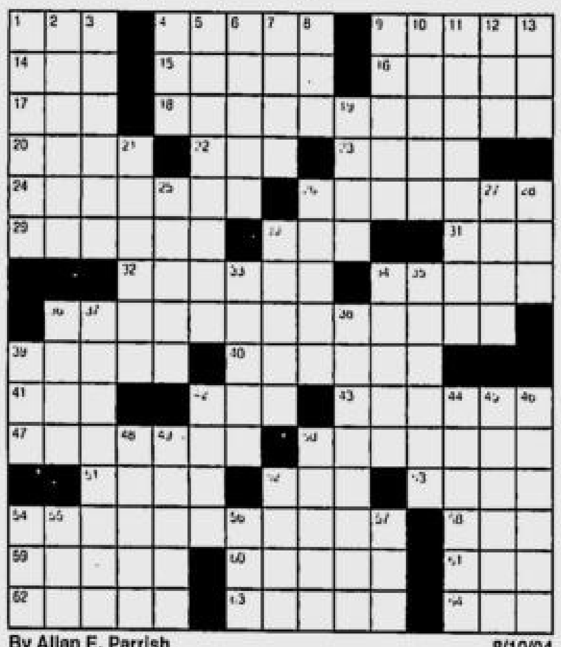
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Legal conflicts might happen for some of you. All of you want to expand your mind and your experience of the world through learning or travel.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): You might have a confrontation with somebody about a shared item. Possibly your conflict is about how to share the responsibilities for someone or something.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Tension with partners is definitely possible now. You have to learn to be realistic in your expectations. You sometimes put others on a pedestal. (You know who you are.)

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Moo __ gai pan
4 Windshield cleaner
9 Conspiracy group
14 Current unit, for short
15 Japanese port
16 Missouri tributary
17 Fixed
18 TV's Sabrina Duncan
20 Bistro
22 Oyster farm
23 Leaves
24 Stirs up
26 Raffle phase
29 Lot of land
30 Playtex product
31 Bonaparte's marshal
32 Admiral nicknamed "Bull"
34 Vaporized water
36 TV's Jill Monroe
39 Stories
40 Part of MoMA
41 Feeling poorly
42 Soft, wet ground
43 Split fruit
47 Eminent conductor
50 Pain pill
51 Olden times
52 Slalom
53 Heroin, to addicts
54 TV's Kelly Garrett
58 Top pitcher
59 Muse of poetry
60 Johnny's intro
61 Score of zero
62 Drive home a runner
63 Leavening ingredient
64 Annapolis grad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By Allan E. Parrish
Mentor, OH

8/10/04

DOWN
1 Tank top?
2 1998 Masters Champion
3 Select
4 Stir-fry pan
5 Actress Rossellini
6 Meat pastes
7 Lived hand to mouth
8 Brit in India
9 Hot drink
10 Out of kilter
11 Nursery piece
12 In the past
13 Writer Deighton
19 India tourist stop
21 Game played with 32 cards
25 Chicago tower
26 Wood nymph
27 Shipshape
28 Sock-hop spot
30 Obscure
33 "Li'l Abner" creature
34 Abandon
35 Ashe Stadium sport
36 FDR's pooch
37 1962 Bent Fabric hit
38 Surfer's stops
39 Actor Curry
42 British weapon
44 Esoteric
45 B-complex component
46 18A, 36A and 54A
48 Sir Georg __
49 Check for fit
50 Director Kurosawa
52 Hook's mate
54 Dubya's Florida brother
55 Parseghian of football
56 Reticent
57 FDR follower

Monday's Puzzle Solved

C	A	S	A	■	D	E	E	R	E	■	T	O	R	E
O	V	E	R	■	E	M	A	I	L	■	H	M	O	S
D	E	L	T	A	F	O	R	C	E	■	E	E	N	S
G	R	E	Y	S	■	T	E	E	M	I	N	G	■	■
E	S	C	■	H	E	E	D	■	E	N	C	A	M	P
R	E	T	O	L	D	■	■	E	N	D	E	M	I	C
■	■	■	R	E	D	C	O	A	T	■	■	A	N	T
J	A	G	G	Y	■	L	A	C	■	D	A	N	E	S
U	M	A	■	■	S	A	S	H	A	Y	S	■	■	■
D	E	M	P	S	E	Y	■	■	E	N	A	C	T	S
I	N	M	A	T	E	■	R	A	R	A	■	O	A	K
■	■	A	P	P	A	R	E	L	■	M	A	M	M	A
S	E	R	A	■	B	E	T	A	F	O	R	M	A	T
T	R	A	Y	■	L	A	I	R	D	■	M	I	L	E
E	N	Y	A	■	E	D	E	M	A	■	S	T	E	R

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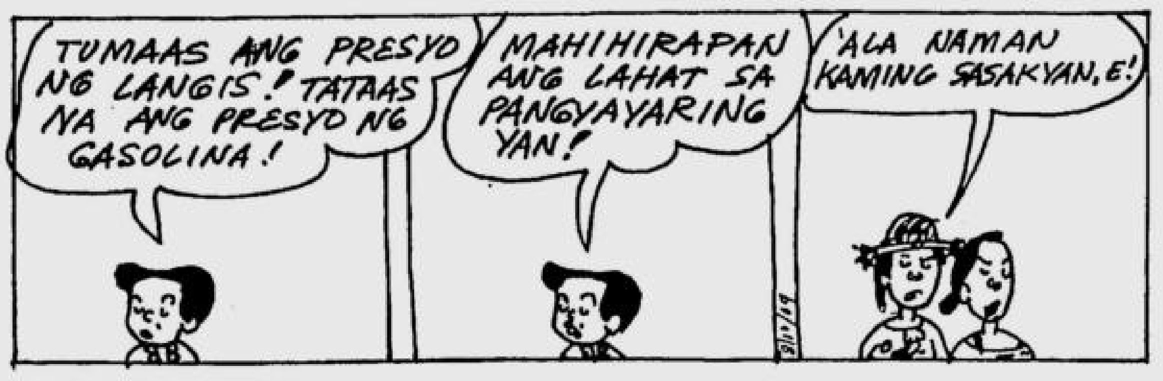
8/10/04

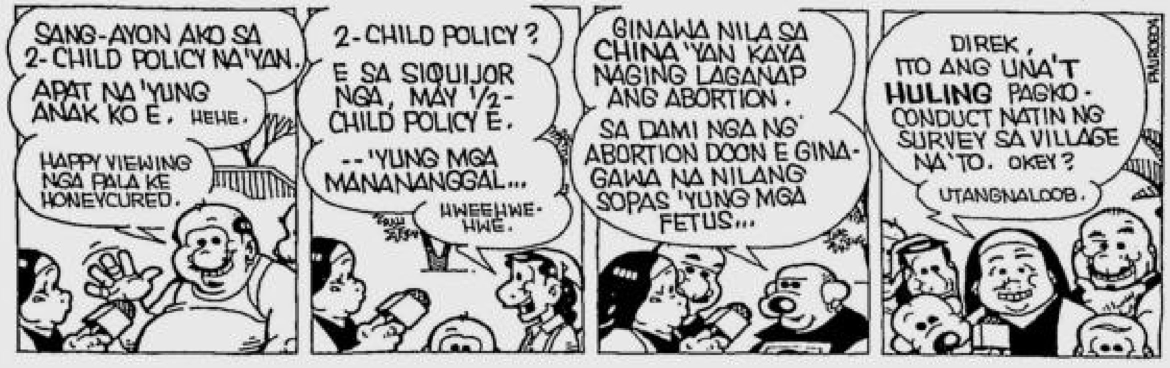
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


TUMAAS ANG PRESYO NG LANGIS! TATAAS NA ANG PRESYO NG GASOLINA!
MAHIHIRAPAN ANG LAHAT SA PANGYAYARING YAN!
'ALA NAMAN KAMING SASAKYAN, E!

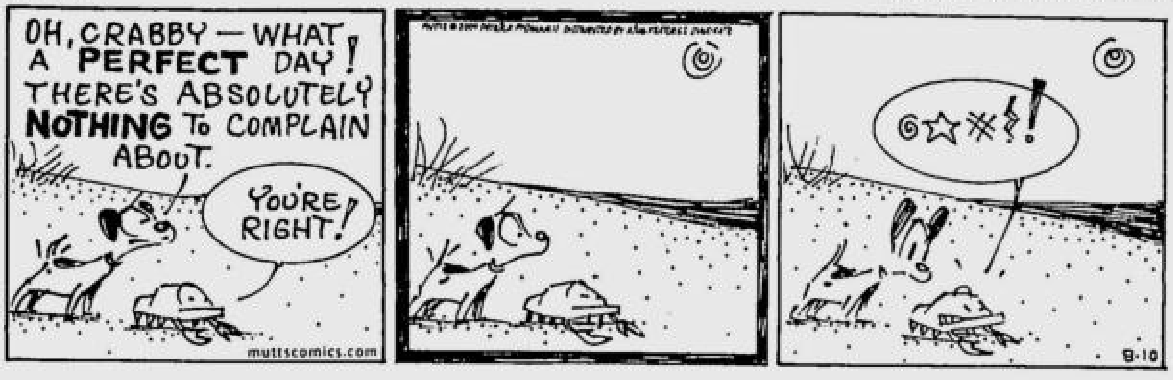
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


SANG-AYON AKO SA 2-CHILD POLICY NA'YAN.
APAT NA 'YUNG ANAK KO E. HEHE.
HAPPY VIEWING NGA PALA KE HONEYCURED.
2-CHILD POLICY?
E SA SIQUIJOR NGA, MAY 1/2-CHILD POLICY E.
--'YUNG MGA MANANANGGAL...
HWEEHWE-HWE.
GINAWA NILA SA CHINA 'YAN KAYA NAGING LAGANAP ANG ABORTION.
SA DAMI NGA NG ABORTION DOON E GINA-GAWA NA NILANG SOPAS 'YUNG MGA FETUS...
DIREK, ITO ANG UNA'T HULING PAGKO-CONDUCT NATIN NG SURVEY SA VILLAGE NA'TO. OKEY?
UTANGNALOOB.
PAURODON

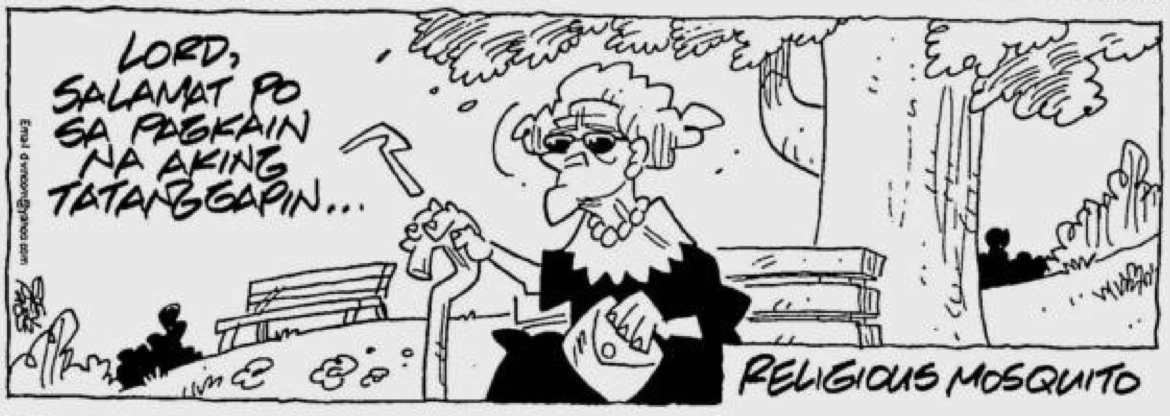
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


OH, CRABBY — WHAT A PERFECT DAY! THERE'S ABSOLUTELY NOTHING TO COMPLAIN ABOUT.
YOU'RE RIGHT!
@☆✻⁈!
muttscomics.com
8-10

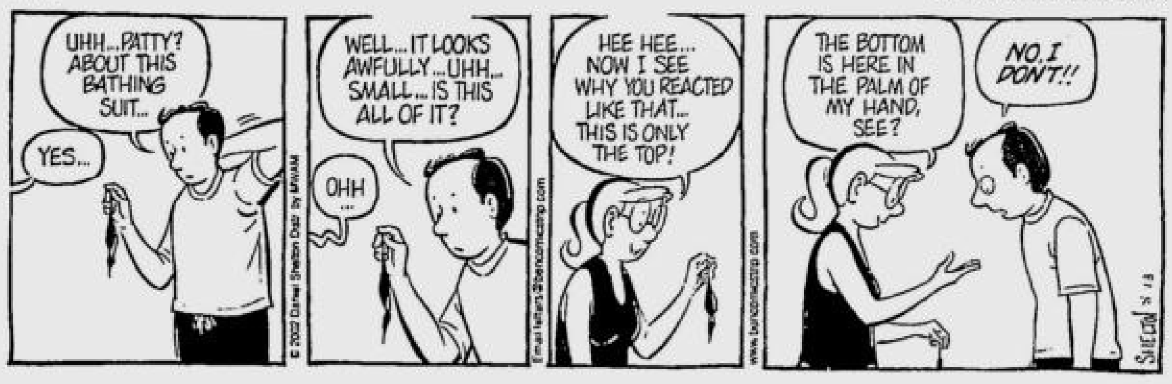
DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


LORD, SALAMAT PO SA PAGKAIN NA AKING TATANGGAPIN...
RELIGIOUS MOSQUITO

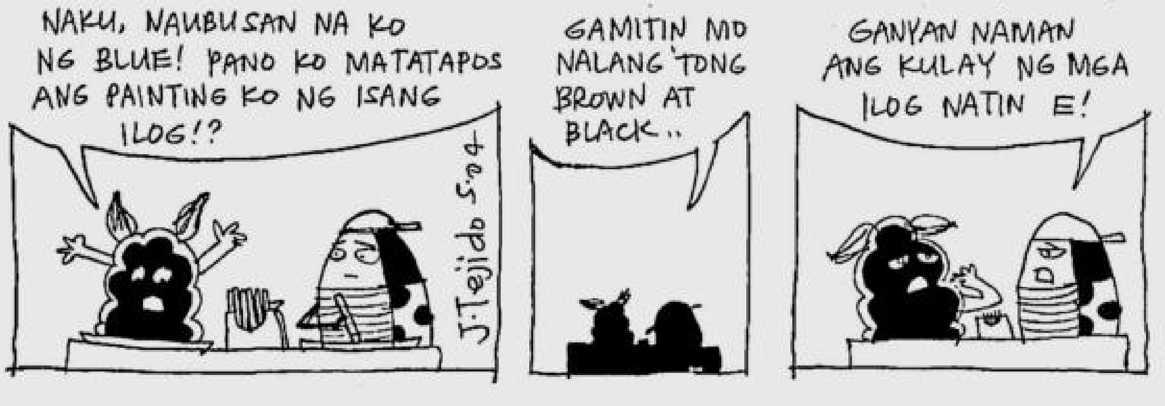
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


UHH...PATTY? ABOUT THIS BATHING SUIT...
YES...
WELL...IT LOOKS AWFULLY...UHH... SMALL...IS THIS ALL OF IT?
OHH ...
HEE HEE... NOW I SEE WHY YOU REACTED LIKE THAT... THIS IS ONLY THE TOP!
THE BOTTOM IS HERE IN THE PALM OF MY HAND, SEE?
NO, I DON'T!!

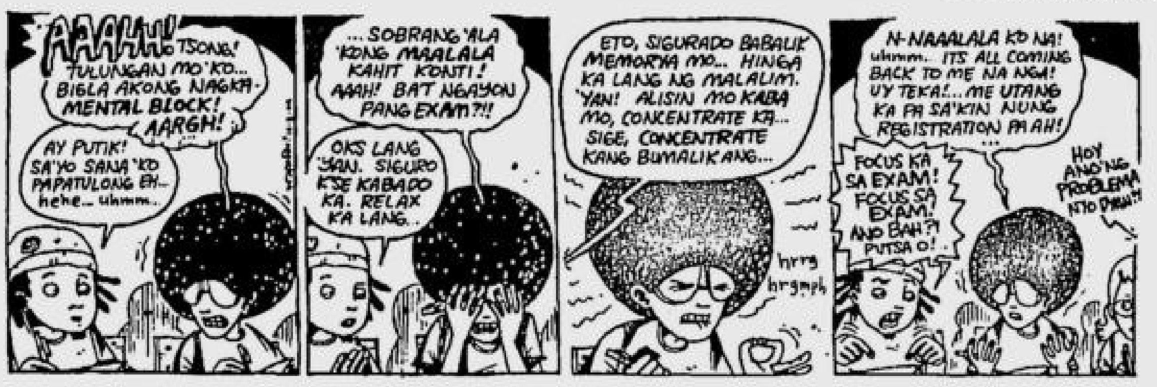
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


NAKU, NAUBUSAN NA KO NG BLUE! PANO KO MATATAPOS ANG PAINTING KO NG ISANG ILOG!?
GAMITIN MO NALANG 'TONG BROWN AT BLACK..
GANYAN NAMAN ANG KULAY NG MGA ILOG NATIN E!
J. Tejido 5.04

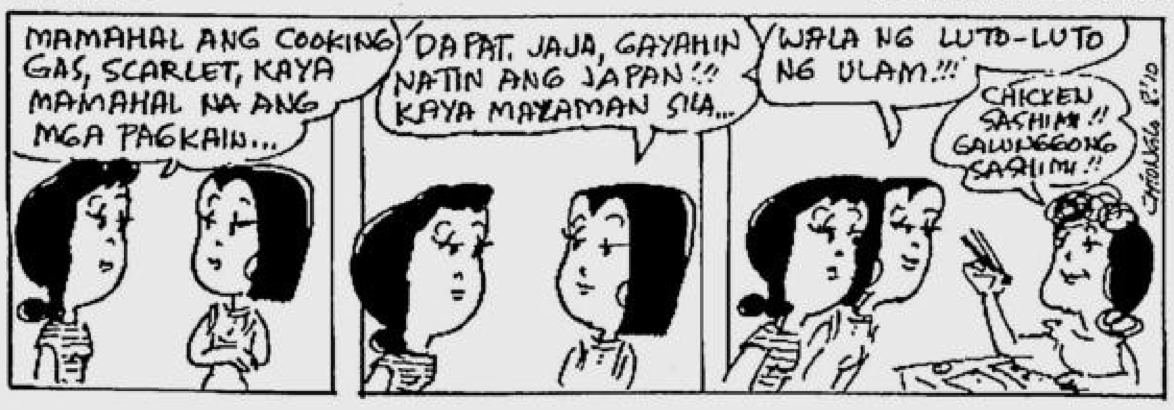
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


AAAHH! TSONG! TULUNGAN MO 'KO... BIGLA AKONG NAGKA-MENTAL BLOCK! AARGH!
AY PUTIK! SA'YO SANA 'KO PAPATULONG EH... hehe... uhmm...
...SOBRANG 'ALA 'KONG MAALALA KAHIT KONTI! AAAH! BAT NGAYON PANG EXAM?!!
OKS LANG 'YAN. SIGURO K'SE KABADO KA. RELAX KA LANG..
ETO, SIGURADO BABALIK MEMORYA MO... HINGA KA LANG NG MALALIM. 'YAN! ALISIN MO KABA MO, CONCENTRATE KA... SIGE, CONCENTRATE KANG BUMALIK ANG...
hrrg hrgmph
N-NAAALALA KO NA! uhmm.. ITS ALL COMING BACK TO ME NA NGA! UY TEKA!...ME UTANG KA PA SA'KIN NUNG REGISTRATION PA AH!
FOCUS KA SA EXAM! FOCUS SA EXAM! ANO BAH?! PUTSA O!
HOY ANO'NG PROBLEMA NITO PARE?!

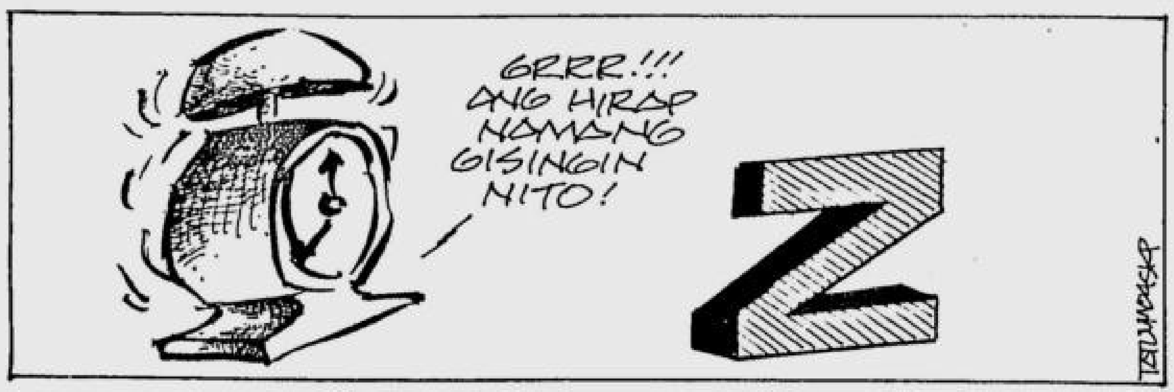
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


MAMAHAL ANG COOKING GAS, SCARLET, KAYA MAMAHAL NA ANG MGA PAGKAIN...
DAPAT, JAJA, GAYAHIN NATIN ANG JAPAN!!! KAYA MAYAMAN SILA...
WALA NG LUTO-LUTO NG ULAM!!!
CHICKEN SASHIMI!! GALUNGGONG SASHIMI!!
CHIONGLO 8'10

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


GRRR!!! ANG HIRAP NAMANG GISINGIN NITO!
Z
TATUMPASKAP

Two tablets a day keep wrinkles away

IMEDEEN
time perfection
NO APPROVED THERAPEUTIC CLAIMS
60 tablets

ONCE a woman reaches the mid-50s, she will experience a new and inevitable stage in life, a new level of womanhood that entails a host of bodily changes.

When menopause strikes, there is a marked reduction in the production of the hormone called estrogen, a group of steroid compounds that functions as the primary female sex hormone.

Estrogen plays an important role in the production of collagen, a natural protein that provides our bodies with structural support. Seventy-five percent of our skin is made up of collagen which provides texture, resiliency and shape. All in all, about 30 percent of our entire body is collagen.

A decline in the levels of estrogen will affect every organ system in the body especially the skin. The skin usually gets drier during this stage, which can also be attributed to the fact that the skin produces lesser amounts of sebum as we get older.

When estrogen drops dramatically, loss of skin tone and moisture, and increase in wrinkles will occur eventually. With collagen production slowing down as women get older, the skin will start to wrinkle and lose its youthful radiance.

Menopausal women are advised to take estrogen patches as supplements that will help counter the effects of low estrogen production. Avoidance of the sun's rays and a healthier lifestyle can also help prevent any future skin damage.

Care of the skin has become a regimen for women of all ages. However, women past their prime spend a lot to erase a few years off their faces. What they do not know is that skincare during this period should also be nourished from within.

Now, there is a breakthrough skincare supplement that contains all the benefits of antioxidants plus something more to improve, defend and protect the skin from aging. New Imedeen Time Perfection is proven to protect the skin from damage caused by free radicals and to strengthen the inner layer weakened by the effects of menopause.

Imedeen Time Perfection has an advance dual-action formula that helps nourish and strengthen the dermis as well as helps slow down future signs of aging.

The state-of-the-art formula of Imedeen Time Perfection contains the highly potent and US-patented complex Lycophence GS, which has a specially concentrated lycopene for defending and protecting the skin's vital building blocks from damage caused by free radicals. Lycophence GS also contains grape seed extract, a natural extract from grapes used for champagne, that has a concentrated antioxidant known to be many times more potent than Vitamin C and Vitamin E.

Aside from the patented, highly potent Lycophence GS, Imedeen Time Perfection also contains Biomarine Complex for nourishing the dermis (the inner layer of the skin where aging starts) and helping revitalize the skin's moisture balance.

By taking two tablets a day, continued use of Imedeen Time Perfection visibly reduces the appearance of fine lines and wrinkles, diminishes the visibility of capillaries and wrinkles, and leaves a brighter, more youthful and even complexion.

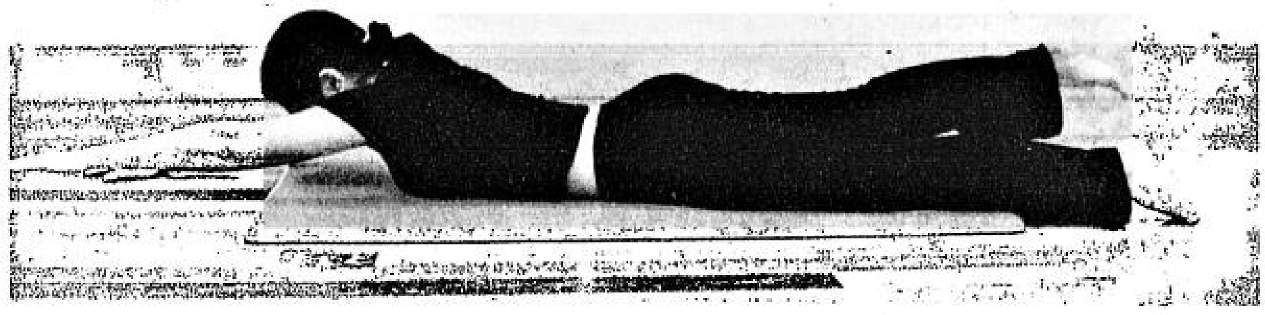
With the protective and rejuvenating properties of lycopene and grape seed extract in Lycophence GS, and Biomarine Complex, continued use of Imedeen Time Perfection will help keep skin beautiful and protected from future signs of aging.

CRABTREE & EVELYN
Lavender
Shampoo
CRABTREE & EVELYN
Lavender
Conditioner

ANSWERS TO INDIVIDUAL HAIR CONCERNS
The new Crabtree & Evelyn hair care range answers specific hair concerns. Shampoos reduce frizz, restore manageability, create volume and nourish. Conditioners moisturize and de-stress. To complement the aloe vera and jojoba oil hair care products, the new hair care range is now available in three favorite Crabtree & Evelyn fragrances—classic Evelyn Rose, relaxing Lavender and romantic Rosewater. Each treatment scientifically blends rare and common plant extracts for natural formulations that really work. With this new product, hair is strengthened, nourished and restored to its peak condition in no time.

EXERCISE OF THE WEEK

Swimming



THIS Pilates-inspired exercise firms up the buttocks, hamstrings and upper back.

Equipment:

Exercise mat

Exercise technique:

1. Lie face down with your arms and legs slightly wider than your shoulders and hips.

2. Lift your right arm and left leg off the mat. Then alternately switch sides.

3. Do the desired number of repetitions.

Performance tips:

1. To protect your lower back, tighten and contract your buttocks and hamstring muscles when you lift your legs.

2. Keep your neck in alignment with your spine by looking down at the mat.

3. Keep both hipbones on the mat to avoid rocking sideways.

4. Inhale for five counts, exhale for five counts (switch sides on each count). This serves as one cycle.

Repetitions:

Do four to five cycles.

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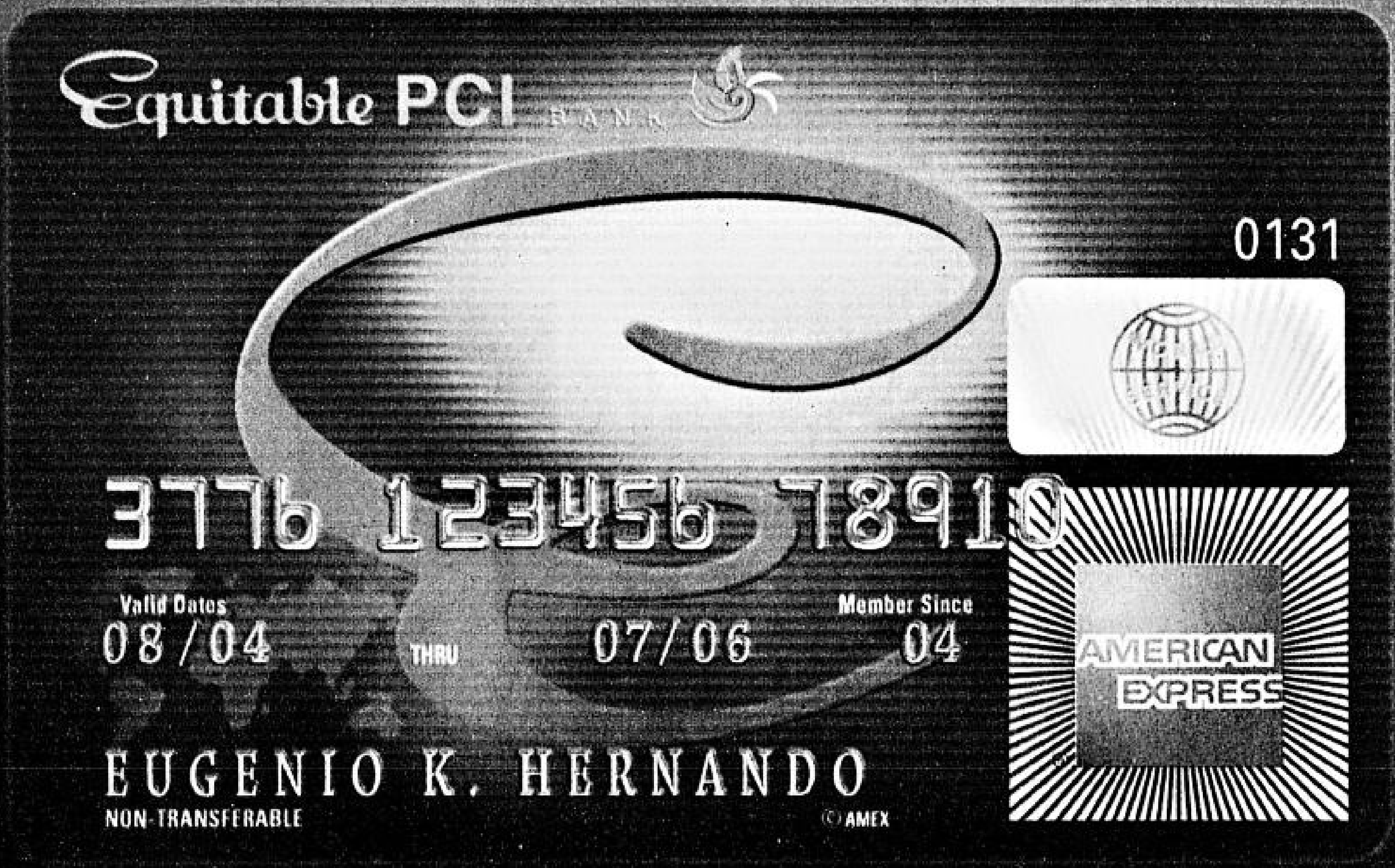

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Ⓖ Flex 1,800	P 1,800	300	P 5.00	P 6.00
Ⓖ Flex 2,500	P 2,500	350	P 4.50	P 5.50
Ⓖ Flex 3,500	P 3,500	400	P 4.00	P 4.50
Ⓖ Flex 5,000	P 5,000	400	P 4.00	P 4.50
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Ⓖ Match	P 2,500	550	500	P 4.00	P 5.50
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